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COURTESY OF DAVID SAVELIEV

Around 100 people gathered on the Beach on Saturday to call for the Maryland legislature to override the governor's veto of the "Ban the Box" bill.

Rally demands equal access to college for ex-convicts

By **TRISHA PARAYIL**
For *The News-Letter*

Members of the Hopkins and Baltimore community rallied to voice their support for banning the box in college admissions. The "Ban the Box" movement includes a nationwide effort to prevent universities from asking prospective students to disclose their

criminal histories in their college applications.

The rally, which took place on the Beach on Saturday, was co-sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) and organized by Baltimore-based groups which focus on providing resources for former convicts, like Out For Justice, Inc. (OFJ) and From Prison Cells to PhD.

Stanley Andrisse, an adjunct assistant professor at the School of Medicine, spoke at the rally about the impact that education had on his life after prison. After obtaining his doctorate, Andrisse began working to help other former convicts overcome educational barriers.

"A lot of society sees people like myself as just criminals, but we change," he said.

In May, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan vetoed the Maryland Fair Access to Education Act of 2017 which passed with bipartisan support in both chambers of the state legislature. This bill would have required

colleges in the state to ban the box asking for criminal history. Hogan was concerned that former convicts could pose safety problems and that the bill excessively limited colleges.

In March, Hopkins opposed an earlier draft of this bill. After working with legislators, however, the University supported its final version.

Demonstrators are currently rallying at colleges across Maryland to convince state legislators to override Hogan's veto in the upcoming legislative session in January 2018.

Andrisse explained that he and other supporters of

See **BAN THE BOX**, A5

The Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrates 25 years



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

OMA's 25th year celebration took place in the Glass Pavilion last Friday.

By **DIVA PAREKH**
Copy Editor

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), which provides resources and support for underrepresented communities at Hopkins. It oversees a number of programs that aim to connect students with one another and help them navigate college life.

To commemorate its anniversary, OMA hosted a celebration in the Glass Pavilion last Friday.

According to OMA Director Joseph Colón, OMA formed in 1992 after the Black Student Union (BSU) demanded a space where underrepresented students could feel supported.

Since then, OMA has added programs like the Mentoring Assistance Peer Program (MAPP) in 1994, which helps first-year students in their transition to Hopkins. MAPP has ex-

panded from its founding group of 15 student mentors to over 40 mentors today, along with 123 freshmen mentees. More recently, OMA created Students Educating and Empowering for Diversity (SEED), which seeks to make the campus community more inclusive and engaged in conversations about diversity.

Though OMA primarily provides resources and programs for underrepresented students, Colón said that OMA has grown over the years to better serve the entire Hopkins community.

Many students describe OMA as their second home. They say that it provides support and resources where other University services are lacking. Class of 2017 graduate Erica Lee described why she joined OMA.

"I got involved with OMA because as a multi-racial first-generation stu-

See **OMA**, A5

Moving beyond the Western literary canon

Students call for more diverse authors in syllabi

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
News & Features Editor

Traditionally, courses in the Writing Seminars and English departments are designed to familiarize students with the Western literary canon.

While some consider these works to be fundamental, others criticize the canon for featuring predominantly white male authors and neglecting to represent writers from different backgrounds.

Recently, these departments have placed a greater emphasis on diversity in course syllabi by creating classes that focus on texts by authors from underrepresented groups.

This semester, for example, the English department offers a new course called "Feminist Fiction: Violence, Race and Gender" to address growing conversations about feminism and the role of women in society.

Many students are happy with the class and praise it for featuring prominent female writers but believe that the University must do more to address diversity in

course syllabi.

Rachel Long, a junior who is minoring in English, said that although the English faculty discuss issues such as diversity and intersectionality in their classes, they do not do enough to include underrepresented writers in their syllabi. She added that diversity is an important part of a college education.

"The point of being in college is to learn and grow and be presented with experiences and perspectives that you've never heard before," she said. "If we're just reading primarily white authors then you're not getting that perspective."

—EMILY VELANDIA,
SOPHOMORE

Mary Favret, professor in the English department and instructor of "Feminist Fiction," said that it is difficult to incorporate diverse authors in a subject historically dominated by white men. She encouraged students to engage in conversations with faculty about how to best include more diverse writers.

"This is great that students are feeling that they want more diversity on the

See **DIVERSITY**, A4

FastForward U aims to support student entrepreneurs

By **JACOB TOOK**
News & Features Editor

This semester, FastForward U (FFU) will begin offering entrepreneurial advising to students looking to start a company or business venture. FFU is an initiative from Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV), an office that facilitates licensing and patents for Hopkins researchers and supports technology startups.

Fast Forward is a program launched at the Whiting School of Engineering in 2013 to provide resources for private companies to develop technology startups. Under Fast Forward, FFU

aims to extend those resources to student ventures by offering mentorship and grant preparation.

According to FFU's Student Venture Coordinator Kevin Carter, FastForward was founded after University President Ronald J. Daniels wanted to expand entrepreneurship opportunities at Hopkins.

"In 2013 President Daniels issued a report to bridge that gap between the basic research that Hopkins has been excelling at for centuries and the applied research or the commercialization of that research, which Hopkins has not traditionally excelled

at," Carter said.

Some students, such as junior Pava LaPere, have observed that in the past students have lacked access to startup resources and that the University largely focused on medical technology ventures. LaPere is the president of TCO Labs, a nonprofit established two years ago to connect undergraduates with entrepreneurial opportunities in Baltimore.

She said that before FFU, the JHTV Student Venture Coordinator was the only resource from the University that undergraduate entrepreneurs could take advantage of.

"Despite the University putting a good amount of emphasis on entrepreneurship through the Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures and the start of FastForward, very little of that was focused on undergraduate students," LaPere said. "The vast majority of entrepreneurial activity goes on with the faculty and medical campus."

Darius Graham, the director of student ventures at Hopkins, said that the University has focused on commercial startups for several years. Typically, these were led by either faculty or external

See **FASTFORWARD**, A4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE The life of a Baltimore rapper



Baltimore musician Dan Mansion has brought the city's art and rap scene to campus in his own subtle way. **ARTS**, PAGE B3

Honesty for your mental health

Lily Kairis addresses the importance of students being honest about their emotions, especially in a stressful environment like Hopkins. **VOICES**, PAGE A8

Hopkins lab observes archaea

Jocelyne DiRuggiero's lab conducts research on extremophiles in harsh environments and invites citizen scientists to take part. **SCITECH**, PAGE B7

Scholars discuss conflict in the South China Sea

By **TIANCHENG LYU**
For *The News-Letter*

The Alexander Hamilton Society, a student organization that brings various speakers to campus, hosted Marvin Ott and Dan Blumenthal on Tuesday. Blumenthal and Ott discussed China's recent aggression in the South China Sea, a geopolitical trade center in Southeast Asia, through which an estimated U.S. \$5 trillion worth of global trade passes.

Ott is a Hopkins visiting professor and senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a global policy think tank, and Blumenthal is the director of Asian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, a public policy research group.

Hopkins Professor of International Relations Steven David moderated the discussion. The debate explored the various ways the United States can respond to China's actions in the South China Sea.

Ott began the discussion by addressing the historical and strategic context of China's maritime developments.

"China is the 'middle kingdom,' the world's oldest civilization with an unbroken continuity. A part of that civilization was to create relationships with surrounding equals, who by definition were less civilized," he said.

Ott explained that the other civilizations around China paid tribute to express their subordination and keep the peace, a system which lasted until Europeans began making contact with Asia.

At that point he said that China entered a period scholars refer to as the "century of humiliation," during which the country lost power in dealings with Western countries and Japan.

"History owes China a deep debt, and the time for that payment has come now," he said. "It is now in a position to reassert its traditional relationship with the surrounding regions and look to an outcome where Southeastern Asian countries are subordinate and compliant to it."

Blumenthal shared his opinion as an American strategist. He said that the U.S. has been a dominant naval power since the end

of World War II and that the U.S. should not only look to protect its own interests but also those of its allies in Southeast Asia.

Blumenthal also discussed the competition between China and the U.S. military.

"That competition has taken on some very serious dimensions," he said. "Part of the reason China is so interested in trying to control the South China Sea is because it has developed a major submarine base in Hainan Island."

Looking ahead, he said that the U.S. should help developing countries in the region to bolster the United States' allied powers and defend U.S. interests.

"Some of these countries are still fairly poor and don't have much military capacity at all," he said. "We at least should help our allies have the capacity to see and control their own territorial waters."

When asked who would be likely to prevail if a military conflict came about in the South China Sea, putting aside nuclear weapons, Blumenthal said that it was impossible to answer.

"The U.S. is a far more capable military force in terms of its individual sailors and marines and pilots," he said. "However, our defense budget and the number of ships we have is getting very low. For us to prevail, we have to take risks to pull our forces from all over the world while China still has its 'home team' advantage."

After the talk, Yihong Zhang, a freshman from China, said that he thought the discussion was intriguing because the speakers looked at the issue from new perspectives. He said that he hadn't considered that China might be acting from a place of hostility.

"As a traditional Chinese who has been living in Shanghai for 17 years, I used to think the way my country acted in the South China Sea is more based on self-protection than aggression," Zhang said.

He added that hearing opposing viewpoints can be beneficial.

"This was a perspective that I seldom think of. I used to believe that most Chinese are humble and peaceful," he said. "I think these are all interesting arguments and that we should definitely dig deeper into this problem."

Lecture series commemorates Henrietta Lacks

By **SARAH Y. KIM**
News & Features Editor

Three days after Baltimore City celebrated Henrietta Lacks Day, the Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) held its eighth annual Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture Series on Saturday at the Turner Auditorium at the Hopkins East Baltimore campus.

Henrietta Lacks, who died in 1951, was an African-American patient with cervical cancer whose cells were taken by Johns Hopkins Hospital without her consent. Since then, her cells, known as HeLa cells, have contributed to many significant medical discoveries.

Three of her descendants participated in the lecture: Henrietta Lacks' grandson David Lacks Jr. and two of her great-granddaughters, Aiyana Rodgers and Veronica Robinson.

Other speakers included Dr. Daniel Ford, ICTR director, and Dr. William Wade Jr., whose father had recommended Hopkins Hospital to Lacks and had served as her primary care physician.

Dr. Robert W. Blum, Director of the Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI), presented the UHI Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award to Turnaround Tuesday, a program developed by Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) to secure jobs for unemployed citizens.

Dr. Lisa Cooper, Bloomberg distinguished professor and director of the Hopkins Center for Health Equity, gave a keynote speech titled "Reaching Health Equity

and Social Justice in Baltimore." She described coming to Baltimore in the late '80s and being struck by the City's socioeconomic gaps.

"There were a lot of people struggling with poverty, not having opportunities to get an education, to get a good job," she said. "There was stress going on in neighborhoods due to the drug epidemic and to crime."

Social instability led to misunderstandings between doctors and patients — namely African-American patients, whom Cooper's colleagues assumed were coming in for drugs.

"A lot of my colleagues who weren't African-American would look at me, as if I could translate," she said. "If you just listened to someone and tried to put yourself in their shoes, then you would hear what the struggle is."

To highlight the severity of health disparities within Baltimore, she compared Madison-Eastend, a neighborhood in East Baltimore, to Roland Park, a predominantly white neighborhood whose mean income is three times higher. The two neighborhoods are about five miles apart, but there is a 20 year difference in life expectancy. Roland Park residents live 83 years on average, while Eastend residents live an average of 63 years.

After conducting surveys and interviews with patients from various racial and ethnic groups, Cooper discovered that there were lower levels of trust in physicians, hospitals, and researchers among African-Americans and other minority groups.

She believes that this mistrust stems from a his-



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM
Health professionals discussed Henrietta Lacks' influence on medicine today.

tory of discrimination against minorities.

"[Ethnic minorities] were asked less often to participate in decisions about their care," she said.

After analyzing exchanges between doctors and patients, she noticed that doctors had fewer personal conversations with African-American patients, focusing instead on technical conversations about the patient's condition.

She added that communication breakdowns were more frequent during interactions between white physicians and African-American patients, compared to interactions between physicians and patients from a similar ethnic background.

"We know that this is a natural thing: When we are like someone, we feel more comfortable," she said. "But we can't allow things like that to influence the delivery of care when they're sick."

Calling for greater community effort in resolving health disparities, Cooper discussed the role of the Hopkins Center for Health Equity, which partners with communities and trains scholars, as well as raising

awareness and promoting policy reform.

"Health equity is everyone's problem," she said.

Following Cooper's speech, audience members were able to submit questions on notecards for a panel Q&A session moderated by Ford. Amongst the five panelists were Cooper and David Lacks Jr.

In response to a question on how DNA and sequencing data could be responsibly obtained, Lacks stressed the importance of consent and making sure everyone involved is properly informed.

"Being on the National Institute of Health (NIH) board, I can see what is going on," he said. "You want to know what is going on, be more engaged and willing to help."

Robinson, who serves as executive director of the Lacks family's nonprofit organization Henrietta Lacks HeLa Legacy Foundation, reflected on her family's role as advocates for health equity.

"We will break down these barriers between the community and the health care field to continue my great-grandmother's legacy," she said.

She stated that in continuing her great-grandmother's legacy, the Lacks family made themselves responsible for promoting health equity.

"Our great-grandmother's story can be your family's story," she said. "Sometimes bad things happen to good people so that great things can happen for others. That's part of my great-grandmother's story."

Natasha Hemeng, a student in the Hopkins School of Nursing, attended the event to learn more about Lacks' legacy.

"Hopkins was the main contributor of real injustices from the case of Henrietta Lacks," she said. "I just wanted to see what steps towards progression or solutions or involvement that they have in the present day."

While she appreciated the event as a way to honor Lacks' legacy, she felt that the lecture series failed to fulfill its agenda.

"We're not really addressing the ideas of health disparity and how situations that may not be as extreme [as the Lacks case] still happen today," she said. "Especially here in Baltimore... the African-American population is still very much suffering."

Jodie Pelusi, another student in the Hopkins School of Nursing, praised the lectures but felt that Hopkins had not properly made up for what happened to Henrietta Lacks.

"They didn't address the wrongs that happened in the past," she said. "We can't really move forward without reflecting on the past."

BPD officers accept internal punishment

By **CATHERINE PALMER**
Managing Editor

Two Baltimore Police Department (BPD) officers involved in the 2015 arrest of Freddie Gray have accepted internal disciplinary action in lieu of going before disciplinary trial boards.

The decisions of Officers Garrett Miller and Edward Nero were confirmed by police union attorney Michael Davey on Tuesday, days after *The Baltimore Sun* reported that the trials would be prosecuted by an outside attorney and the boards chaired by a police commander from a neighboring or state agency.

The punishments that Miller and Nero accepted have not been disclosed, but both officers will remain on the force. *The Sun* previously reported that they faced five days of unpaid suspension.

Davey told *The Sun* that Miller and Nero do not believe they are guilty of any disciplinary infractions but chose to accept punishment as means of moving the process along more quickly.

Gray, a 25-year-old black Baltimore resident, died in April 2015 from a severe spinal cord injury, one week after BPD officers arrested him. His death sparked more than a week of peaceful and violent protests that gained national attention.

The day after the state's medical examiner's office ruled Gray's death a homicide, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby brought criminal charges against the six

officers involved in Gray's arrest in May 2015.

However following the mistrial of Officer William Porter and the acquittals of Nero, Officer Caesar Goodson, Jr. and Lieutenant Brian Rice, Mosby believed the possibility of securing any convictions was unlikely. She dropped the charges against Porter, who was set to be retried, as well as Miller and Sergeant Alicia White in July 2016.

The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division launched its own investigation into Gray's death in 2015 but announced last month that it would not be bringing federal criminal charges against any of the officers involved in Gray's arrest.

Rice, White and Goodson, who drove the police van in which Gray allegedly sustained his fatal spinal cord injury, are still slated to go before disciplinary boards. They all face termination.

The charges came after the BPD asked neighboring Montgomery County and Howard County police departments to review their officers' actions. Porter was cleared while charges against the other five have not been specified.

Disciplinary boards are typically composed of fellow officers and cases prosecuted by in-house attorneys. The city has chosen to bring in outsiders to prevent any conflict of interest.

The trials will be prosecuted by Neil Duke, who

has been contracted by the City Law Department to work on a number of police misconduct cases as a defense attorney, a fact that concerns Gray family lawyer William Murphy, Sr., according to *The Sun*.

Duke is also a former vice president of the Baltimore National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and former chair of the city school board.

The chair of the three-person trial boards, who acts as both a judge and juror, has yet to be chosen but will come from neighboring Prince George's County or the Maryland State Police, according to *The Sun*. Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis formerly served as assistant chief of police for Prince George's County.

The appointment of an outsider as chair has raised concern within the BPD from Lieutenant Lisa Robinson, president of the Vanguard Justice Society, a nonprofit that serves black officers in Baltimore.

Robinson told *The Sun* that an outsider may not be as familiar with conditions and policies under which BPD officers operate.

The search for a chair may delay the trials. Attorneys for Goodson, Rice and White filed a joint motion with the Baltimore Circuit Court to push back the trial dates due to allegations that city officials tried to coach chair candidates, all of whom had previous experience on trial boards.



COURTESY OF TIANCHENG LYU
Blumenthal and Ott explored maritime competition in the South China Sea.

NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins celebrates fifth annual Hoptoberfest



COURTESY OF ANEKA RATNAYAKE

Free giveaways at Hoptoberfest include pumpkins, shirts and food.

By **KAREN WANG**
Staff Writer

The fifth annual Hoptoberfest kicked off on Monday and is scheduled to last through this Friday. Hosted by the Hoptoberfest student organization, it was originally established to celebrate fall and help students relieve stress.

The festivities began with the Kick-Off in Martin Center courtyard and will culminate with a concert on the Beach. Other events included the Pumpkin Patch, where students could customize their own pumpkins, and a screening of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

Sophomore Jeffrey Wang, secretary of Hoptoberfest, stated that increasing attendance and participation at the events remains a priority.

"Our most popular event is the concert, but we're trying to make each of our individual events garner more popularity," Wang said. "Trying to get new members and ensuring that people have a lot of fun is the biggest goal."

This year, some changes included modifying the logo of Hoptoberfest, having students design mugs instead of phone cases and recruiting a more well-known performer, the band Cheat Codes, for the concert through a co-sponsorship with the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP).

Juniors Grace Duan and Ting Fang manned a table for the Chinese Students Association (CSA) to sell food at the Kick-Off. Duan was disappointed that students weren't willing to attend the entire event.

"A lot of people come at the beginning and get the sparklers and T-shirts, and then there's no incentive for them to stay," Duan said. "I don't know what Hoptoberfest is doing to encourage people to stay."

Fang added that T-shirt distribution presented difficulties for clubs fundraising at the Kick-Off.

"Right now there's nothing we can do," Fang said. "We had to go to the line to sell our crepes."

Senior Stephanie Cai also found T-shirt distribution disorganized.

"The highlight of Hoptoberfest is people getting a shirt," she said. "They can do a better job of distributing them out at different times."

Wang explained that the club was addressing the issue. This year, Hoptoberfest organizers set up barricades to make lines for T-shirts more orderly.

"Hopefully that'll make it a lot better, because obviously each year it's kind of a hassle," Wang said.

Seniors Maggie Donahue and Lily Kairis reflected

on how Hoptoberfest has changed since their freshman year. Donahue said that she has become more appreciative of the event.

"I have enjoyed it increasingly more each year," Donahue said. "There are more events now than there used to be, or maybe I'm just more aware of them."

Kairis said she pays more attention to Hoptoberfest than in past years.

"Freshman year it just seemed like this magical thing out of nowhere," she said.

Wang stated that future Hoptoberfest events may be modeled after this year's.

"We'll keep trying to cater to more of this type of style," Wang said. "It really depends on how well things run."

Should the City rededicate its Columbus monument?

By **MORGAN OME**
News & Features Editor

After celebrating Columbus Day on Monday, Baltimore community members are debating whether a recently vandalized Christopher Columbus monument should be rededicated or renamed.

In August, a man vandalized the 225-year-old monument, a 44-foot obelisk in Herring Park Run, destroying the marble plaque in front of the obelisk with a sledgehammer. Originally erected in 1792 by Chevalier D'Anmour, the French Consul in Baltimore, the monument is believed to be the oldest one dedicated to Columbus in the U.S.

Eric Holcomb, executive director of the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation, said the city has yet to decide what to do with the monument.

"What we want to do is come back and do community outreach and consensus," he said.

Currently, City Councilman Ryan Dorsey is conducting a survey of residents who live near the monument to hear what they want to do with it.

Holcomb believes that it is important to include input from Baltimore citizens. "When it comes to the

Italian community and the African-American or indigenous people community and the different ways that they view the monument, that's when we think one of the best things to do would be to go out and create a dialogue," Holcomb said.

He thinks that monuments should serve as reminders but that they can be rededicated to better reflect the values of the current era.

"We are creating history now, especially with the repurposing or rededicating of the Columbus monument," he said. "It's very exciting, and I hope we're doing it in a thoughtful, deliberate way."

Using insurance money obtained after the monument was vandalized, the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation will create a new plaque. Holcomb expects that a new marble tablet will be installed in the spring of 2018. He said the destroyed plaque will be preserved in a museum.

Some members of the Italian-American community in Baltimore consider Columbus to be a hero and celebrated historical figure. According to *The Baltimore Sun*, Italian-American heritage groups pressured the City Council to vote against renaming Columbus Day to honor indig-

enous peoples and Italian Americans.

Junior Caroline Lupetini, whose grandparents left Italy for America, does not support Columbus Day.

"It's disappointing considering all the atrocities: the genocide, murder, rape, enslavement of indigenous people in the U.S.," she said. "It shames me as an Italian."

Lupetini believes there are other holidays during which Italian Americans can feel proud of their heritage, like the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, which honors two apostles, or Saint Joseph's Day, another significant Catholic holiday.

"Any of those days would be more appropriate for Italian Americans to celebrate their culture than some arbitrary Monday in October celebrating a genocidal maniac," Lupetini said.

Critics of Columbus Day and of the Columbus monument point out that Columbus was not the first to discover America and that he contributed to violence against indigenous people. U.S. cities have been de-

bating what to do with other controversial monuments. Over the summer, Baltimore removed its four Confederate monuments.

Junior and Native-American student Joshua Bertalotto believes Columbus Day perpetuates historical inaccuracies.

"Honoring Columbus for discovering America is simply false and offensive," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"By honoring Columbus as the founder of America and by not speaking the facts about Columbus, many people will just revert to believing what they learned in elementary school."

Bertalotto, who is a member of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, hopes that people recognize the pain and suffering that Columbus' exploitation caused.

"Before Columbus, our civilizations thrived," he wrote. "Columbus did not bring us civilization, but he did bring disease and genocide, setting a precedent for forced assimilation and forced removal of Indigenous people."

"Honoring Columbus for discovering America is simply false and offensive."

— **JOSHUA BERTALOTTO, SENIOR**

Panelists share first-hand accounts of Middle East conflicts



COURTESY OF ANNA GORDON

Students praised the panel for drawing attention to wars in the Middle East.

By **ANNA GORDON**
For *The News-Letter*

Four panelists with experience in the Middle East shared their views on the humanitarian crises in the region at a discussion titled "Unexpected Challenges in the Post-Islamic State Era" on Thursday, October 5.

The panelists included Robert Ford, former U.S. ambassador to Syria and Algeria, Caitlin McNary, a humanitarian aid specialist who has served in multiple Middle Eastern countries, and Amineh Safi, a Syrian human rights advocate. Sarah Parkinson, an assistant professor of International Studies and political science at Hopkins, was the fourth panelist and served as the moderator.

Before the panel discussion began, the Hopkins Alumni Association presented Ford with the Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Government Service.

When the panel got underway, Safi explained that Americans underestimate how much bravery it takes for Syrian citizens to stand up for their regime.

"Coming from that type of scenario, for them to actually come out and exercise this protesting and free speech and demanding hu-

man rights is something that really is a triumph in itself," Safi said.

McNary feels that Americans do not pay enough attention to Yemen.

"The Yemen conflict is something that outside of Yemen people have very little understanding of," McNary said. "A lot of it has to do with the challenges of getting to the country or speaking from the country since the infrastructure has been so damaged."

McNary also explained some of the more specific challenges Yemenis face with regard to nutrition and health care. She said that the country has seen a severe cholera outbreak and also faces an ongoing nutrition crisis. According to McNary, malnutrition is the leading cause of death for children under five in Yemen.

She explained that, due to their state of poverty, the country lacks the infrastructure to deal with these issues.

Ford felt that it was important for Americans to understand how U.S. bombings unintentionally affect civilian lives.

"Everyone is upset about what we saw in Las Vegas, right? It's horrible," he said. "Did you know that an American bombing strike killed double that num-

ber of civilians in a Syrian school in the city of Raqqa a couple of months ago? How many of you heard about the 110 civilians? How many of you heard about Las Vegas?"

Ford explained that the American mentality is that these civilians casualties will ultimately be worth it to the Syrian people if it helps get rid of the Islamic State sooner rather than later. However, Ford believes that this perspective was problematic.

"Who are you in the U.S. Air Force to make that decision for Syrians? There are Syrian organizations, committees and councils who want to have input," Ford said. "We are going to deal with resentment from having made these decisions for generations."

Safi agreed with Ford that Syrians are becoming

resentful of Americans for acting against the interests of the Syrian people.

"When we are choosing to act, it's not for the best interest of the Syrian citizens, and it is more for political benefits," Safi said. "They see that [Americans] are not acting upon what [Syrians] want. We're acting upon what somebody else wants."

She explained that she believes the Assad regime hurts Syrians more than ISIS does. According to Safi, the regime has greater control over society in the area than ISIS. She said that unlike Assad's regime, ISIS does not cut off the electricity or kidnap and torture young men.

Many students and faculty said that the event shed light on important issues. Dr. Robert Freedman, a visiting professor of political science, thought that Ford gave par-

ticularly interesting insights.

"It was a first rate event of multiple perspectives, and it gave us a really good feel for the dynamics and the problems dealing with the Syrian problem," Freedman said.

Freshman Layla Al-Zubi said that she appreciated the panelists for emphasizing issues that Americans may not know much about.

"I definitely think it's thought provoking," she said. "I think a lot of people are not exposed to the entire story of things... It's all human rights, and I think we disregard that unless it's happening close to home."

Sophomore Sumera Yego said that she appreciated Safi's perspective.

"We saw through [Safi] the really humanizing aspect of what it actually means to be in a civil war," she said.

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Should literary courses include diverse authors?



COURTESY OF DAVID SAVELIEV

Many students believe that their course readings lack diverse perspectives.

DIVERSITY, FROM A1
syllabus, and I think they should come talk to faculty about that,” she said. “It’s a two-way street.”

Writing Seminars Professor Andrew Motion, however, said that the department has a responsibility to increase diversity.

“Good teaching in my view consists partly in recognizing what students are especially curious to know about,” he said. “But it also consists in introducing them to things that they don’t know of.”

Junior English major Sarah Linton expressed frustration with her Introduction to Literary Study class, which almost entirely featured texts from white men.

“It’s a very narrow way of thinking about the broad field of literature. We’re limiting ourselves as scholars,” she said. “There are definitely older texts - like texts that are part of the canon - that are by diverse authors that we just aren’t reading.”

Other professors agree that syllabus diversity is an important issue. Mary Jo Salter, chair of the Writing Seminars department, said that the faculty frequently discuss syllabus diversity.

“It’s really been one of our

major concerns at least in the last [few] years,” she said. “I would say that 10 years ago it was not a priority.”

Motion agreed that increasing syllabus diversity is a priority in the department.

He said that the University could hire diverse faculty, bring diverse speakers to campus through the Writing Seminars Reading Series and offer classes on diverse writers.

This semester Motion is teaching a course called “Readings in Poetry: International Voices,” which features works by writers of color.

Salter said that rather than adding to or adapting currently existing syllabi, the department should focus on hiring more diverse professors.

Sophomore Writing Seminars major Kaylee Zou, who is Asian American, agreed that the best way for the University to address diversity is to hire professors who are minorities.

“So far, all of my professors have been white,” she said. “There are students in my class who are writing poems that are touching on race, and... I feel like in those discussions it’s almost like my white professors can’t

provide the level of depth that perhaps someone who was of a minority background could.”

Zou believes that the University should also work to include more diverse writers in syllabi for existing classes, particularly “Introduction to Fiction and Poetry.”

“Those are intro classes that anybody can essentially take, and you’re supposed to expose [students] to such a wide range of writing,” she said.

Both faculty and students also discussed the difficulties involved in trying to diversify syllabi. Matthias Gompers, an English and Writing Seminars double major, said that there is simply a lack of relevant material from writers from minority groups.

“If you’re teaching a class on British literature pre-1865, there really isn’t a lot of diversity,” he said. “That’s just a product of the time period you’re working with.”

Gompers also suggested adding a required course that focuses specifically on diverse literature.

“Specifically African American lit, or literature of South America, some kind of requirement,” he said. “All of those... fields have incredible writers and fantastic literature.”

English and history major Adam Krieger said that while diversity is important, he is unsure whether the University needs to take such a proactive approach to diversify syllabi.

“I think there should always be an effort to hire diverse faculty, but I don’t know if they should force anything,” he said.

Lawrence Jackson, a pro-

fessor in the English and history departments, also explained that the English department has a small faculty with narrow interests, resulting in a small overall course offering.

He also noted that the African American literature course he is teaching this semester is not a full class.

“[Students] don’t seem to be demanding classes that are not about traditional topics,” he said.

Krieger noted that this lack of demand may stem from the difficulty to fit non-traditional classes in students’ schedules given the requirements in the department.

Motion, however, believes students are interested in studying works by diverse writers, shown by the students in his International Voices course.

“There absolutely is deep and proper curiosity about this,” he said. “I feel very heartened by that and... their enthusiasm for this course is very encouraging to me.”

Sophomore Emily Velandia, who is Hispanic, said that she would like to see herself represented in the works she reads.

“I don’t think I’ve ever once in academia read something written by a Hispanic woman,” she said.

Velandia explained why it is important for Hopkins students in particular to be exposed to different perspectives.

“The fact that we even made it to college and get to attend such a renowned institution means that we already are sort of disconnected from the realities of the world,” she said.

Hopkins launches new innovation program

FASTFORWARD, FROM A1
companies using the University’s equipment and space.

He added that FFU would build on the resources already available to give students more opportunities.

“Technology is changing and I think we need to make sure that students are at the forefront of that, and that students are being equipped with the opportunities and the skills and the resources to be problem solvers and change makers,” Graham said.

Construction of FastForward U Homewood, a facility in Remington, is expected to finish in the fall of 2018.

Currently, FFU has a space on the East Baltimore Campus called FastForward East and a temporary space in the Wyman Park Building.

FastForward U Homewood will be built near R. House, a restaurant that offers space to a range of vendors. FastForward already has space in R. House for its commercial startups.

“They’ll be just next door to the students that are working in FastForward U Homewood, so we want to do a lot of connecting students with other entrepreneurs,” Graham said.

FFU will provide free consultation for student ventures. Carter said that he has met with a range of students, from those who are brainstorming ventures to those who have already launched their ventures and want help with marketing.

While FFU will work to help student ventures enter the market, Carter said that there is no risk for students.

“It’s a kind of safety net for Hopkins students,” he said. “Even if it does fail, the worst that happens is that you’re still a Hopkins student, so now’s the time to take risks. We’re trying to just encourage that mindset as much as possible.”

Graham said that they expect students to make a non-binding commitment to return to the program and contribute, either financially or with other resources such as mentorship for future student entrepreneurs.

“Students own whatever they create completely,” he said. “We’re taking a huge amount of effort to invest in these students, and so we want to create this virtual cycle where we help a student launch their business, and in the future they want to come back and help other students do the same.”

LaPere said that another student entrepreneurship group would only give students more resources.

However, she added that TCO Labs has an advantage as an undergraduate group, pointing out that FFU is not focused just on Hopkins undergraduates but caters to all students.

“We intimately know the needs of student entrepreneurs,” LaPere said. “It’s that type of intimacy that we’re allotted because we are students and because we work and live within this network that lets us have a stronger access point to the student entrepreneurs than say an administrative initiative.”

Graham said that FFU would work with student groups like TCO Labs to put on programming.

“We’re not trying to own entrepreneurship on campus, just trying to help enhance the ecosystem,” he said.

“We’re all in this working together just to make opportunities better for students interested in entrepreneurship.”

Some students, like sophomore Pascal Acree, said they were excited to take advantage of FFU’s free office hours.

“We’re trying to find as many resources as possible to get more information on how to handle the business side of things,” Acree said.

“We’re looking for mentorship to try to make that transition from designing and prototyping to actual implementation for our project.”

Junior Brooke Stephanian, the chief operating officer of TCO Labs, said that she hopes FFU’s growth will bring increased undergraduate interest in entrepreneurship.

“The number of student entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial groups has increased, and I’ve noticed that, as TCO has grown, a lot of student groups have begun to reach out to us,” Stephanian said. “With FFU, I think there’s definitely going to be an increased interest in entrepreneurship.”

LaPere said that before programs like FFU and TCO Labs, an emphasis on academics at Hopkins left entrepreneurs more isolated.

She said that FFU sends a message that entrepreneurship is an option for students, who may struggle to balance their time.

“Just the fact that the administration has put focus on entrepreneurship through Fast Forward U, that’s going to encourage more student entrepreneurship generally, which is good for the entire ecosystem,” she said.

SGA plans initiatives to increase accessibility

By **TRISHA PARAYIL**
For *The News-Letter*

The Student Government Association (SGA) welcomed its newly-elected freshman representatives at its weekly meeting on Tuesday in Charles Commons.

Freshman Class President Sam Schatmeyer and Freshman Class Senators Evan Mays, Matt Taj, Coco Cai, Aspen Williams, Lauren Paulet and Nico Daurio were sworn into their new positions by Executive Vice President AJ Tsang.

At the beginning of the meeting, Tsang announced that 100 people participated in the Ban the Box Rally on Saturday. The approximation is based on T-shirt distribution.

Following a talk given by Stanley Andrisse, a postdoctoral fellow at the Hopkins

School of Medicine Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, at the first meeting of the year, SGA passed a resolution affirming their support for the Ban the Box movement, which calls for employers to stop requiring job applicants to disclose criminal records.

Both Tsang and Executive President Noh Mebrahtu are strong proponents of the movement.

The SGA is currently in the process of creating a new website to include a larger database of legislation, minutes and other documents dating back to three years in order to keep the student in the SGA’s activities and goals.

After the budget for each class was reviewed, the discussion shifted to the goals that each sub-committee has for the upcoming year.

Senior Class Senator Mieraf Teka discussed the ongoing projects of the Committee of Academic Affairs and Student Services.

“We will work on Inter-session class input and work on providing for advising resources for non-pre-meds, including sending out a questionnaire to see what the biggest issues are that we can work to address,” Teka said.

Following the briefings by the chairs of the various committees, each class council summarized their objectives for the semester.

The first event that the senior class council has planned is the beer tasting event this Thursday for seniors who are 21 or older.

In order to make the SGA more accessible to their constituents, the junior class council will continue to hold “Coffee with Council Chats” — or office hours — at Brody Café. The junior class council also plans to initiate a food pantry at Hopkins with their “Save a Slice” event.

Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion Darlene Saporu discussed initiatives that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion have begun this semester, including Diversity Champions, or faculty leaders within each department, who work to advance their department’s diversity and inclusion goals. Another initiative is a fellowship for faculty members that is designed for diversity and inclusion work.

Saporu also mentioned

the challenges that her office face, particularly the limited number of applicants with diverse backgrounds.

“Especially in STEM and natural sciences, we are dealing with a very small pool of candidates with PhDs,” she said. “We have been working on outreach to the younger population, getting involved in volunteer work, partnerships, to get younger people interested in STEM careers.”

She also mentioned that there is stiff competition with other institutions over candidates, particularly those in engineering fields. However, she also stressed more positive aspects of Hopkins, citing the prestigious research opportunities for faculty and the location of Hopkins in Baltimore.

“Some of you may see Baltimore as an opportunity, some of you may see it as a challenge,” Saporu said. “We see it as an opportunity. Baltimore definitely has a lot to offer.”

Tsang then presented information about the Homewood Council on Inclusive Excellence, which was launched in September 2016 after the idea was broached at an open forum with more than 100 attendees.

Sophomore Class President Anthony Boutros informed the SGA about plans for a new office for the Student Disabilities Services.

The meeting adjourned after a quick discussion about spirit wear for the SGA members.

Errata: Oct. 5 Edition

In the Oct. 5, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, in the article “University now recognizes IX Society,” the IX Society was characterized as a sorority when in fact the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life recognizes them as a “local organization.”

In the Oct. 5, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, in the article “Students unite for Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria,” Nikki Lopez Suarez’s name was misspelled.

In the Oct. 5, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, in the article “Baltimore City celebrates Henrietta Lacks Day,” the original photo caption misidentified members of the Lacks family.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.



COURTESY OF JACOB TOOK

FastForward U hosted an open house for potential student startups.

Alumni return for weekend celebration

By **PETER JI**
Senior Staff Writer

The Hopkins Alumni Association held the annual Young Alumni Weekend (YAW) from Friday, Oct. 6 to Saturday, Oct. 7. Throughout the weekend, alumni returned to Hopkins to reconnect with friends and meet with current Hopkins students.

Events included hangouts at local bars, a tent party and the football game on Saturday. Other alumni groups, such as the Pride Affinity Group and International Studies Affinity Group, held their own gatherings.

Pat Conklin, senior associate director at the Office of Alumni Relations, said the weekend was extremely successful, particularly the Blue Jay Takeover at the Pratt Street Ale House.

"It was packed, and it was a great location to host the event," she said.

The first YAW, which took place in 2006, drew 500 participants. This year's YAW drew as many as 2500.

Since its inception, the program has grown to include a luncheon, a tailgate and networking programs. However, Conklin explained that things were scaled back slightly this year to make space for the coinciding Parent's Weekend.

"We wanted to be thoughtful and not use a lot of space on campus," Conklin said.

This year, networking events took place in off-campus venues. For example, the Pride Affinity Group decided to move their gathering to the Flavor Lounge.

Another event that took place off-campus was the International Studies (IS) happy hour, which took place at Maxie's Pizza & Bar. It was organized by the International Studies Leadership Council (ISLC) and the International Studies Affinity Group.

Senior Serena Frechter, co-director of ISLC, explained that the event was intended to help both current IS majors and recent alums.

"Since IS such an ambiguous major, [the purpose was] to learn what young alums can do with their major," Frechter said.

Andrew Austin, a member of the Class of 2015, participated in YAW for the first time to reunite with friends. He added that he never noticed that ISLC planned activities in previous years.

"Maybe this year the marketing was better," he said. "I've never come to an event for IS young alumni, so it was a fun time."

Some alums found the overlap between YAW and Family Weekend inconvenient. Philip Lin, who graduated last semester, often confused the events for Parents Weekend with those of YAW.

Jared Beekman, member of the Class of 2014, has attended YAW every year, mainly to support Hopkins athletics.

"I haven't made it around campus much. It's just good to see friends," he said.

Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrates 25th anniversary

OMA, FROM A1

dent, I went through my entire freshman year kind of lacking a community," Lee said.

Lee later took on leadership roles in OMA.

"I saw that there was a really big benefit in giving underrepresented students a helping hand in figuring out their pre-med lives and transitioning to Hopkins, because I myself didn't have that," she said.

Colón and Associate Dean for Student Success and Former OMA Director Irene Ferguson addressed some of OMA's other goals for the next few years, which include fostering more dialogue around contentious subjects and encouraging students to develop more confidence in their identities. OMA also hopes to further expand its outreach.

At the anniversary celebration, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger addressed the parallels between the political climate today and that of 1992, OMA's founding year.

According to Shollenberger, from the end of 1991 to 1992 onwards, national foundations responded to widespread protests and demonstrations by helping fund diversity initiatives at various colleges and universities all over the U.S.

"Johns Hopkins followed

suit, putting institutional resources and funding to support the voices of social justice," Shollenberger said.

During the celebration's opening remarks, Shollenberger emphasized the importance of looking at OMA's past in the context of the present.

"While we rightfully and joyfully celebrate all that OMA has accomplished over the last quarter of a century, I do think it's important to acknowledge that we do so at a time when our nation is embroiled in very difficult conversations about diversity and inclusion," he said.

During the celebration, senior Kwame Alston emphasized the importance of OMA for students who may feel overwhelmed at Hopkins.

"It's important that we have a resource like OMA for students of color. My whole life, I'd always been in spaces surrounded by people that look like me," Alston said. "I'd never been in a place where I was actually the minority."

Class of 2010 graduate Brandon Simms, who founded the Men of Color at Hopkins Alliance (MOCHA), agreed with Alston, discussing the academic challenges he faced as a Hopkins student.

He explained that OMA inspired him to form MOCHA and motivated him to

work hard at Hopkins.

Junior Karissa Avignon stressed the need for OMA to continue serving as a safe space, despite other University programs that exist to promote racial awareness.

"A good chunk of Hopkins students are just uncomfortable and unwilling to get into discussions and debates regarding race and culture," she said. "Spaces like OMA are definitely needed to provide more of a safe space for students to go to."

Avignon was a MAPP mentee her freshman year and then went on to become a mentor as a sophomore. Although being a mentor is rewarding, Avignon mentioned that her former mentor was often too busy to make time for her and should have been held more accountable.

Class of 2010 graduate Karlene Graham, however, focused more on the mentorship network she created during her interactions with her peers and the staff at OMA.

"I still have relationships with Mr. Colón and Mrs. [Carla] Hopkins if I need mentorship," she said.

Colón and Ferguson added that what makes OMA mentorship unique is that OMA staff members try to holistically understand a student's character and build lasting relationships with them.

"We're interested in stu-



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

The Office of Multicultural Affairs held an anniversary event on Friday.

dents enough to challenge them," Ferguson said.

Junior Mika Inadomi, who was formerly involved in SEED, described how the motivation and passion of OMA students and staff made the experience worthwhile for her, but she wishes OMA had a bigger reach and impact on campus.

"There's some resistance on the faculty side to really let SEED do what it's capable of, which is understandable because it is such a small group," she said.

Inadomi highlighted the difficulties any diversity initiative has with drawing in people who don't have a prior interest in such conversations.

"If students are already interested, they'll self-select to be a part of it," she said. "If they don't have the natural desire to educate themselves and have those difficult conversations, they won't."

Graham agreed that all students should pay at-

tention to and be involved with an organization like OMA.

"It's not only important to see people like you [succeed] as a student of color," Graham said. "It's also important for majority population students to see representation of different minority groups in leadership."

Colón also acknowledged that engagement is an area where OMA can improve.

"We know the academics can pull you away from a lot of the stuff that's important to talk about, but I think we need [students] to be a part of the conversation," he said.

Inadomi stressed that OMA is a crucial part of the Hopkins landscape and encouraged students to understand the importance of inclusivity.

"OMA is extremely necessary because Hopkins alone doesn't really provide resources for students of all backgrounds to feel welcome," she said.

Community rallies for equal access to education for ex-convicts



COURTESY OF DAVID SAVELIEV

Job Opportunities Task Force spoke at a rally on the Beach on Saturday.

BAN THE BOX, FROM A1

banning the box in college admissions want to work on making educational opportunities available for everyone.

"We want to override the veto come January," he said. "Beyond that we have to continue the conversation because it's the stigma of criminal conviction that is [the problem]."

Erek Barron, a member of the House of Delegates and one of the sponsors of the bill, stressed how he could have easily been incarcerated in his youth growing up as a black man in a single-parent home.

"No one else in my family had graduated from college before me. We weren't a family that knew education. But my mom built me up and made sure I did my homework," he said.

Caryn York, the executive director of the Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF), an organization that advocates for low-income and low-skilled workers, emphasized that education should be accessible for everyone.

York also said that colleges did not support an earlier draft of the Maryland Fair Access to Education Act.

"Every college and university in the state of Maryland opposed this bill. In

all fairness, the legislation they opposed was the legislation as originally drafted," York said.

She believes it is important for colleges to voice their support for the bill in order for legislators to listen.

"Even though we had bipartisan support, I'm pretty sure that the other side — colleges and universities — still were not happy," she said.

In the final version of the bill, the legislators included a provision that colleges using third party admissions applications, such as The Common Application would still be allowed to collect criminal background information.

However, colleges would be required to notify applicants that disclosing such information would not bar them from admission.

In an email to *The News-Letter* Dennis O'Shea, executive director of media relations for the University, explained that Hopkins supported legislative efforts to make education accessible to former convicts.

"We worked to help craft a bill that would protect potential applicants from fear of an automatic rejection because of a criminal history, while, at the same time, allowing us to thoughtfully

and holistically make offers of admission," he wrote. "A bill which found this balance was passed by the General Assembly but subsequently vetoed by the Governor."

He also elaborated that Hopkins does not solely consider an applicant's criminal background in its admissions process.

"A criminal record does not preclude an applicant from achieving academic success," he wrote. "The University has admitted students who have disclosed a criminal history."

Several students attended the rally to show support for banning the box in college admissions. Members of the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO) hosted a table at the rally.

Mikhail Osanov, the GRO chair, affirmed his

support for the campaign.

"GRO believes that people should have access to advanced degrees and in addition there's data that show that people who get an undergraduate degree are much less likely to go behind bars again," he said.

GRO co-chair Linda Tchernyshyov added that the mental barriers that former convicts face when applying to college can be detrimental.

Juliana Popovitz, the GRO advocacy chair, sees banning the box as an effort to stop racial discrimination.

"We don't want to support racist structures," she said. "We believe that this box discourages people from applying to university."

Sophomore Allegra Rapoport attended the rally and supports provid-

ing former convicts opportunities to obtain a college degree.

"You should not be judged on your past convictions as long as it is not threatening the safety of the campus," she said.

SGA also played a role in organizing the rally. For example, Executive President Noh Mebrahtu sent a school-wide email encouraging Hopkins students to attend the event. Recently, SGA passed a resolution affirming their support for banning the box in college admissions.

The resolution urges the University to remove the criminal convictions checkbox and add a statement on the application stating that criminal history does not disqualify an applicant from admission by Dec. 1, 2017.

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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

A look into the unique style of McCrae's poetry



Bessie Liu
Write Me

Shane McCrae's poem *[We married in a taxi]* is perhaps one of the most interesting and unexpectedly heart-wrenching poems I have ever read.

It features many unique stylistic and form choices that give it a complex voice. The most glaringly obvious are the indentations which sometimes appear in the middle of his lines. For example, "We'll never have you said another child [sic]."

The speaker's use of an interruption in the middle of a line almost interferes with our ability to interpret what the speaker is trying to say. For example, should the line read "we'll never have, you said, another child," or does the spacing indicate a dialogue between the two parents where "you said another child" stands apart from the other half?

Regardless, the spacing does emphasize the second half of the line and introduces a certain separation of sorts between the two parents sitting in the backseat of the car.

The speaker's use of enjambment, in that there is not a clear separation between the ends of lines and the ends of thoughts, gives the poem a marked sense of movement. One example is the line "Wind and what happens you asked when we die / Who will take care of him."

While navigating the avenues of McCrae's writing, the reader feels similar to the speaker who is being driven along winding roads, twisting and turning. In particular, I love the phrase "slipping in the wind," which McCrae uses a few times throughout the poem. Wind is traditionally symbolic of change, so to be slipping in the wind in this context connotes a sense of discomfort, a feeling of losing control and reeling in the face of the unexpected.

It becomes clear about halfway through the poem what this conflict is (if conflict is even the right word): two parents worrying about how to take care of their son, who has been diagnosed with autism.

The movement perpetuated by McCrae's choices in form conveys the parents' sense of isolation and loss perfectly. The contrast between the movement of the taxi and the stillness of the parents helps highlight the grievous, all-consuming nature of their conversation.

All the speaker can remember are various words and phrases repeated throughout the poem: "Our son has autism," "long" and "taxi slipping in the wind." Keeping in mind the title of the poem, I almost think the

poem suggests that the true moment a couple becomes married is not when they exchange vows and rings at a ceremony but when they are forced to deal with the unexpected and are forced to grapple with those difficulties together.

On the web site that I first read *[We married in a taxi]*, an analysis written by author Arielle Greenberg followed immediately after the poem.

I did not realize until she pointed it out that the poem is 14 lines, just like a sonnet. McCrae does a good job of making his poem seem much longer than 14 lines.

Whether or not that changes anything about how the poem can be interpreted relative to the usual subject matter of sonnets we may read in class is an interesting thought.

Perhaps the most impacting lines in the poem are the last two: "...he can't sleep when we're / Not there you said how will he get to sleep." The sheer vulnerability and simplicity of this question hits readers hard, because it's not about the parents wondering how to take care of a child with autism anymore.

Rather, it's about the parents being afraid of life's fragility and volatility and about how their child will be able to take care of himself when they are gone. As Greenberg describes it, the poem ends on a question that is "irresolvable, unanswerable... heightened by the lack of punctuation following."

Poems written in ways that challenge traditional limitations of verse like in *[We married in a taxi]* remind me that there are so many different tools available to the poet to convey their messages. Style and form can say just as much as the words themselves.

How are you really? An experiment in full disclosure



Lily Kairis
Guest Columnist

Lately, I've become increasingly aware of how impossible it is to understand someone else's brain. This is a tragic epiphany.

If you've met me, you might know that I'm a big fan of "deep talks." Whether it's bonding with my roommates or with strangers at a frat party, I have a weird habit of staring people earnestly in the eyes and asking them: "What's your biggest dream in life? What are you afraid of? Tell me about your childhood." (Yes, I'm not even kidding. Now you know to steer clear of me at frat parties.)

If we're friends, you might also know that my mom's a therapist, and I'm a member of A Place to Talk (the University's peer listening group), and I will smite you if you denigrate the importance of mental health.

But putting all of this aside, I've come to realize lately that even the best listeners can't take a dip into someone else's consciousness. We're all living our own personal narratives; we're all the protagonists of our own coming-of-age indie films. No one knows exactly what anyone else around them is feeling or experiencing.

This became relevant to me as, in my past three years at Hopkins, I've slowly come to understand and cope with my own mental health.

These days, I am lucky enough to have an extremely strong support system. My friends at Hopkins are some of the most big-hearted, empathetic

people I know, and they will always, without fail, listen to my haphazard ramblings and validate my feelings.

Despite this, I still sometimes feel a profound lack of openness on this campus. I see people sprinting from one class to the next, sweat dripping down their foreheads, looking like an apocalypse-fearing Tom Cruise in *War of the Worlds*; I see people on C-level at 2 a.m. hunched over their laptops, their eyes Etch-a-Sketched with red.

I ask these people (often my friends) how they're doing, and they either lie and say "okay" or parrot the Hopkins catch-all response "I'm stressed."

News flash: Stress is not an emotion. I know school here can wring the life out of you until

you're like a dry sponge, but sometimes I'm convinced that all people need is a little honesty. We waste so much time pretending like sleep deprivation is okay. We waste so much time pretending like we're okay rather than asking for what we need or addressing what's going on in our brains in the first place.

So I guess, to create the culture I'd like to live in, I'm using this article as an experiment of full disclosure. I'm an angsty 21 year old, and here's what happens in my brain:

For me, anxiety is mood swings: highs and lows. Energy and drive during the day tells me I can accomplish anything I set my mind to. I can write a screenplay, I can take 18 credits, I can perform a TED Talk about love on a national stage, I can create a successful nonprofit initiative inspiring young girls to gain confidence through theater and improv games.

These hypothetical ac-

complishments imbue my brain with color — images of a smiling Lily on a stage in front of hundreds, shaking the hand of George Clooney as he hands off a Nobel Peace Prize (Why is George Clooney there? I'm not sure. Just go with it) — and I strut through my day with confidence and poise as Frank Ocean's "Futura Free" provides an optimistic soundtrack to my cinematic life.

But then hours pass, and the day isn't as cinematic as I'd planned. I get distracted.

I spend 45 minutes getting sidetracked in a deep talk with that friend I haven't seen for months. I'm late to class. I spend \$4 on iced coffee from Brody to hashtag treat myself and then later curse myself for

lavishness.

I do four unnecessary favors for distant acquaintances, because I'm incapable of saying no. I cram in an hour at the gym to eradicate the

adrenaline. I type frantically until I've finally finished all tomorrow's work at 1:39 a.m., and when I finally crash in bed, I'm utterly spent. Exhausted. Depleted. As I lie awake in the approximately 17 uneasy minutes before consciousness gives way for sleep, that's when the low hits.

And when I say hit, I mean kamikaze into my skull. In the darkness and solitude, my mind allows itself to entertain all the worst thoughts it has been so kindly suppressing during my waking hours.

Thoughts like: You aren't good enough, and you're wasting your parents' money, and you'll never be as kind or giving or influential as you want to be. You're lazy, you're screwing up, it's too late to change, nothing's

ever gonna go your way, nothing's ever gonna live up to your expectations.

My mind is so talented at torture. It stings me where I'm weakest, and even when I know wholeheartedly that these awful things aren't reality — I'm hardworking and determined and kind, I whisper back to myself in the 1:43 a.m. haze — my mind does an excellent job at convincing me otherwise.

So I lie there and I breathe and I contradict the self-deprecations until calm-Lily overcomes anxiety-Lily and sleep pulls me in ungracefully. Sometimes I don't catch the anxiety in time, and I dream of a vengeful God, feuding parents or public disgrace.

But if all goes well (I remember to meditate, I listen to smooth jazz, I turn off my phone at 11:45 p.m. and I paint the insides of my eyelids with the faces of my loved ones), then — then, unconsciousness is bliss. I'm anxiety-free.

I dream of lush meadows and European streets and summer camp, of ballroom dancing and music festivals and forehead kisses. It's lovely. Lucky for me, these nights far outweigh the nightmarish ones. Despite it all, sleep is still one of my top five favorite activities.

Yes this is a very upsetting description, but I promise you, I am doing wonderfully. In my opinion (and I know, as a mental health-obsessed, therapist's daughter, I am biased), understanding your brain's virtues and vices is the bravest and most powerful thing you can do. Self-disclosure is not everyone's cup of tea, but it's my best mug of Earl Grey in the morning, so from now on, I'm going to be as honest as possible.

But I promise, if you pass me on Gilman Quad and throw me a perfunctory, "How are you?" I'll do my best not to make you late for class.

The long and winding history of sport and recreational running



Meagan Peoples
Think About It

Somehow, at some point, I got the idea into my head that it was a good idea to start running. You know, get healthy, get fit, do the things the magazines are always telling me to do. Turns out it was a terrible idea. Now my back hurts, and I feel older than ever.

Even the act of running sucks. People stare at you as you slowly jog past them, decked out in the sports clothing you wear once a year. The concept in itself is strange. Why run for fun? The idea is entirely contrary to the great many negative connotations that running has historically: mainly that we normally do it to get away from something bad.

As it turns out, running

has been around for a pretty freaking long time. The earliest record of running for sport comes from Ireland.

To commemorate the death of the Irish goddess and queen Tailte in 1829 B.C., a festival was held which included a number of events to challenge both physical and mental fitness. Among these were hurling, play acting and of course, running. The games continued to run until the Norman invasion of 1117 B.C., though they were later revived in 1924, featuring many of the same events.

A hop, skip and couple thousand years later, the historic run of Pheidippides inspired the marathon event introduced during the first modern Olympics in 1896.

Though there is quite a lot of dispute about the accuracy of the legend, the story goes that Pheidippides ran from Athens to Sparta, a distance of about 240 km (150 mi), in order to request help against the Persian invasion of Marathon. He ran this distance in just two days and encountered

the mythical god Pan on the way. The god was upset that the Athenian people paid no attention to him, a message which Pheidippides delivered along with his request for aid. Later, the Athenians would build a shrine to Pan, and the god would help them fight their battle against the Persians.

Once the battle at Marathon was won, Pheidippides was tasked once again with delivering a message, this time to Athens. He ran the 40 km (25 mi), in a single day, told the Athenians "Victory" (but in Greek of course), and then promptly dropped dead.

In his honor, Olympic planners forced people to do this same grueling run for over 100 years.

But when did recreational running become so popular? Running that's not for safety or sport but simply the ambiguous concept of healthy living. The fad isn't as old as you might think, while indoor treadmill jogging has been around slightly longer, outdoor jogging only really became popular in the 1960s.

In fact, before this time, treadmills were commonly

used as a form of punishment and hard labor for prison inmates. Famously, Oscar Wilde was forced to run on one during his two-year prison sentence for sodomy. What I'm saying is that I'm not totally wrong when I scream "This is torture" five minutes into my five mile.

So how did it get to the point it is today where you can't step outside without seeing someone in bright colored spandex breezing past you?

Well, part of the success is due to a book which promoted jogging as health measure, and the other part

was due to capitalism. Nike, which you may recognize as the shoe company (or Pheidippides' last words), had a stake in increasing the sport's popularity. By promoting running, they increased shoe and clothing sales.

So there you go, apparently I have Nike to blame for my burning calves, lungs and back.

Hopefully all of this history will inspire you and me to pick up the hobby. More likely, I will find myself tomorrow, halfway into a box of Oreos, telling myself that I will go for that run some other day.



Public Domain
Running as a sport is thought to date as far back as 1829 B.C. in Ireland.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

The guide to campus wildlife

The humble squirrel

The American grey squirrels, with their bushy tails and bright eyes, can be seen scampering all around campus. Emboldened by their close contact with humans, it is not at all surprising to see them running about close to the FFC or Brody, making use of dropped food and other pickings.

Birds

These creatures are also often spotted just outside of Brody. However, they are usually lying prone after having just collided with the glass.

Mice

Though a bit of a rare sight, the odds of seeing one increase dramatically when entering the basement level of one of the older buildings on campus.

Rats

A proudly displayed symbol of Baltimore, rats are an even rarer sight on campus, but wander around any trash heap long enough and you might just see a tail disappearing under a dumpster.

Rabbits

Despite the sparse amount of woodlands directly on campus, these furry things seem to be everywhere. Seen particularly in the spring hauling babies about, these little creatures typically leave waves of "awwwws" in their wake.

Things I've learned while procrastinating



Ariella Shua
Internet Expeditions

My online wanderings often stray away from work and into what can best be described as the random corners of the internet.

I've learned quite a few interesting things since classes began at Hopkins, though many of them were not learned in a classroom.

When struck with random questions (which I often am when I should be focused on just about anything else), I use my ample procrastination time to accidentally learn more than I ever intended to about random topics.

Some of these questions and answers, helpfully provided by the internet, are:

Why did people start eating from ice cream cones?

There are a few accounts of people eating ice cream out of edible, waffle-like containers throughout the 1800's, but the most commonly cited inventor of the cone is Italo Marchioni, an ice cream salesman from New York City. At the time, ice cream was served in glass containers, which took a long time to clean and could be stolen.

To avoid this, Marchioni invented a contraption that would allow him to cook waffles and keep them hot long enough to fold over into a container-like shape.

Though Marchioni received a patent in 1903, the cone was not popularized until after the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, which has resulted in several disputes about who invented the cone.

How many words exist between all of the languages in the world?

It depends on how you define a singular word. If a word has more than one meaning, does each definition count as a separate word, or is it just the unique stringing together of letters in a certain order that makes a word?

Do words that sound the same but come from different languages count as one word or two? Are names, medical terms and obsolete terms included?

Because defining the parameters of what makes a word is so complicated, this question is impossible to answer. The closest estimation for the English language, however, is about a quarter of a million words, according to the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary.

What is the longest story ever written?

Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* was declared the world's longest novel by *The Guinness Book of World Records*. Written in seven volumes between 1913 and 1927, the novel contains over 1,200,000 words in French. Proust won specifically because his work's individual character count was the longest.

However, Proust's count has been beaten online in recent years. "The Subspace Emissary's Worlds Conquest" was published on *fanfiction.net* by user Aura-ChannelerChris, who based his work on Nintendo's Super Smash Bros. franchise.

The story, which has been

in progress since 2008, has a current word count of over 4,061,000, more than three times that of Proust's novel.

Why did French fries receive their name if they aren't from France?

Though it is unclear exactly where French fries originated from, many believe that they came from Belgium, most likely during the mid-1600s. Villagers often sliced fish into thin segments to fry and eat. During the winter, when the waters froze over, the villagers switched to potatoes and served them the same way.

The term "French fries" may have come from the Americans who fought in Belgium during World War I. Upon trying the fried potatoes, the Americans who thought they were in France (since French was the local language) began calling the food "French" fries.

Why is the sky blue?

Yes, it is the classic question that every child asks their parents, but either I never received an answer or I forgot it over time. As NASA's website explains, sunlight travels in a straight line until it reaches Earth's atmosphere, at which point it begins to scatter.

The gases and molecules in the air disrupt the straight path and send the light waves in every direction. The energy waves of blue light are shorter and choppy than those of other colors, so their waves get scattered around more, making the sky blue.



THEIMPUSLIVEBUY/CC BY-SA 2.0
The first waffle cone was invented by a New York City ice cream salesman.

My delicious problem with midnight snacking



Sudgie Ma
Bone Apple Tea

As midterm season has crept onto campus, so has one of the student body's most terrible diet-related habits: stress eating. For me, the habit coincides with late-night snacking, which makes it so much worse.

It'll be turning midnight, by which point I've already eaten all my meals for the day, but somehow my stomach still thinks there's room for more. And not just a little bit more but a family-sized-bag-of-chips type of more.

It honestly feels like a magic trick at times. One moment I'm sticking my hand into the bag to grab a handful, and the next, I stick my hand in only to grab air. If my workload disappeared as quickly as food does around me, I'd be getting 16 hours of sleep per day.

The more I think about this habit, the worse it really sounds. On a typical late-night study session or homework cranking session, the first wave of snacks won't be enough. By the time I'm done with them, I still won't be anywhere near done with the work I have to get done that night. Cue more snacks.

Of course, I've tried

substituting chips with other equally delicious and crunchy snacks like nuts, granola and cereal. I'm totally happy with snacking on these healthier substitutes, but at the end of the day, they're still bad in high quantities.

Carrots and celery sticks would be ideal snacks to munch on for a good hour or two without too many consequences, but I still need a sweet or savory flavor to go with every bite I'm taking.

Sadly, carrots and celery sticks alone don't provide enough flavor for me unless I add a dip. But when you add a tub of hummus to the mix, it's no longer healthy.

When it comes to stress eating, I'm only "full" when I tell myself that I'm full. My snacking will usually go on until one of three things happens: I'm out of food, I'm full or I'm out of work to do.

The first thing that'll happen for most people is that they'll feel full, so they'll naturally stop snacking. From what I've read online, it seems like it should take about half an hour after eating for the mind to signal that the stomach is full, but it feels longer than that for me.

I could go snacking endlessly for an hour or two, especially when it's something that comes with a nice crunch.

If I didn't stop myself at some arbitrary point, I could probably go on snacking for a whole night. It's pretty scary to think about, but it also makes me wonder why I stress eat in the first place.

It's not that I'm hungry. Snacking somehow gives me

comfort when I have to stay up late with a lot of work to do in the hours ahead of me until dawn. If my hands aren't writing or typing, they're holding snacks.

Snacking might provide me with an illusion that I'm doing something, even if I'm not working. Of course, eating delicious food is also something that never fails to put a smile on my face.

It's probably during the somber hours of readings I have to catch up on or problem sets to crank out that I'm most in need of some steady source of happiness in the background to keep me going.

Although snacking might put me in a better mood for my work, I don't think it actually helps me get stuff done more efficiently. I can't really "multitask"; that word is meaningless to me. I can hardly even pay attention to a conversation or lecture unless I'm looking directly at the person who's talking.

So if I'm eating something, it's probably going to distract me and divide my

attention from whatever else I need to be doing. It's worsened by the fact that whatever I'm snacking on is probably loud, thanks to the crunching.

I might be in the middle of a sentence, crunch, have to pause and remember what I was even doing, crunch, and just sound totally incoherent and, crunch, have to redo whatever I was just doing.

Late-night snacking isn't unhealthy for me just for weight reasons. It's also unhealthy because it prolongs my nights by making homework take longer than it should.

That leads to lack of sleep, general lethargy, a slow-functioning brain (slower than usual, I mean) and a need to nap and push the things I have to do later into the night. This leads to scrambling to finish things at night, which leads to snacking and... Well, I think I just found one of the roots to my suffering at Hopkins.

But denying myself food is also suffering. There's no easy way out. There never is.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
For Ma, late-night snacking, healthy or not, can have negative consequences.

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

It’s time for more diverse voices
in our literary syllabi

Literature often reflects the values and thoughts we find most important in our society. Courses that teach literature should aim to integrate these issues into their syllabi.

While Hopkins has renowned English and Writing Seminars departments that offers a variety of courses ranging from “Readings in Poetry: International Voices” to “British Literature,” some students find that the Western literary canon dominates the current curriculum. They feel these courses do not adequately represent the complete diversity of our current body of literature.

We believe that the required readings for English and Writing Seminars courses at both introductory and upper levels should include works from writers with diverse racial and economic backgrounds. As we are living in a more globalized society accompanied by an unstable political climate, we believe it is important to teach students to be able to confront an array of voices and ideas.

These changes would not only affect students within these majors, but impact others as well. For example, undergraduates in the Film & Media Studies Department are required to take a certain number of English

courses.

Students of other academic backgrounds also take introductory level English or Writing Seminars courses to fulfill their writing intensive and humanities distribution requirements. We feel it is important that students fulfilling their requirements are exposed to a more comprehensive range of works.

We acknowledge that the specialties of the English and Writing Seminars faculty may not lie in these diverse literary areas. We also recognize that these departments have made recent efforts to offer classes with professors who specialize in works from different cultures.

This is evident from a class such as “African American Literature from 1900 to Present” with Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Lawrence Jackson, which is currently being offered this fall. We appreciate the steps that the English department has taken to recognize these voices.

We also are aware that professors have mentioned that classes focusing on more diverse literary fields have seen lower enrollment rates. This is thus an opportunity to not only call on the University to push for professors to diversify their syllabi, but also for students

to take these classes that feature a variety of voices.

Currently, the English major requirements include pre-1800 literature and foreign language courses. For Writing Seminars, there is no specification on non-Western works. We encourage both departments to consider adding a non-Western course requirement, similar to how the International Studies Program requires non-Western history courses to complete the major.

Especially today, diversifying our syllabi is important because our current literary dialogue emphasizes the experiences of people from different walks of life. This can be seen in the rising popularity of authors such as Ta-Nehesi Coates, Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, Junot Diaz and Salman Rushdie.

We know that students and the University care about representing these voices because all of these aforementioned authors have visited our campus within the past couple of years. There is much that our English and Writing Seminars departments do well to prepare their students but a new generation requires an updated curriculum.

Editor’s Note: Three members of the Editorial Board are currently majoring in English or Writing Seminars.

Letter to the Editor

Conservatives continue to misunderstand the
meaning of free speech

In response to “Conservative views are unfairly silenced on campus,” published on October 5:

Dear Editor,

Given the unending media fixation surrounding this topic, I suppose it was only a matter of time before *The News-Letter* published an OpEd on the supposed persecution of conservatives on liberal college campuses. While I took issue with most of James O’Donnell’s article, I was particularly struck by O’Donnell’s preposterous assertion that “open political dialogue has existed in this nation for nearly 250 years”, and that by making it “socially acceptable to use violence to shut down different opinions” “liberals have caused far more detriment to... free speech than conservatives”. Every part of that statement is untrue.

Truly open political dialogue has never existed. For most of America’s 250-year history, political participation was illegal for the majority of its citizens and the use of violence to silence the opinions of marginalized people was not only socially acceptable, it was standard practice. After the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, black men were prevented from exercising their right to vote through organized campaigns of state sanctioned violence.

In the 1960s, the FBI conducted a series of covert (and often violent and illegal) projects called COINTELPRO that harassed, intimidated, falsely imprisoned and even assassinated left wing organizations and individuals like socialists, Civil Rights leaders, and Puerto Rican nationalists. In recent years, Republicans across the country have introduced new laws that aim to criminalize peaceful protest- one particularly absurd proposal demanded that no DAPL protesters reimburse the state for police overtime expenses.

While professors and college students may seem overwhelmingly liberal, they’re rarely able to protect academic freedom from coercive political influence. When Owen Lattimore, a Hopkins professor at the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations (the precursor to SAIS), was accused of being a “known communist”, the University not only fired him, they disbanded his whole department. More recently, Harvard rescinded Chelsea Manning’s visiting fellowship due to pressure from the CIA and UC Berkeley bowed to political pressure and cancelled a class in the middle of the semester for discussing Palestine as a settler colony.

Ultimately, O’Donnell fails to understand that access to free speech has always been conditional upon its content and source. When speech challenges existing power dynamics it becomes dangerous to those whose interests lie in the preservation of the status quo. White supremacists march mask-less in our streets because they have no reason to fear retribution. They pose no threat to a nation forged from the foundation of white supremacy.

To pretend that the right to free speech is under fire for the first time in American history because of snide looks, snarky memes and peer pressure is absurd and quite frankly offensive to the thousands of Americans throughout history who have lost their lives for daring to speak out against the status quo. Protection of civil liberties and the right to voice dissent are crucial prerequisites for a just and democratic society, but by framing free speech as a question of interpersonal relations instead of power relations, conservatives continue to misunderstand its meaning and significance.

*Madeleine Esme
Hopkins Class of 2017*

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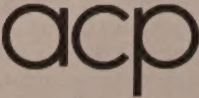
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Muslims are unfairly connected to terrorism

By SAMUEL FARRAR

The shooting in Las Vegas is the most recent example of a growing string of large-scale attacks on American soil. After we've mourned this terrible tragedy, America must look critically into the circumstances that allowed this shooting to occur, both on a national and local level. When doing so, it is important to analyze the rhetoric used to describe the situation.

Why are some attacks labeled by the media as "mass shootings" and other attacks are labeled "terrorist attacks?" The answer to this question can be found in the profiles of the attackers.

The Las Vegas shooting has been labeled as a mass shooting by the media. The attacker was white.

The Charleston, S.C. church shooting in 2015 was labeled as a mass shooting. The attacker was white.

The Sandy Hook massacre in 2012 was labeled as a mass shooting. The attacker was white.

The Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2016 was labeled as a terrorist attack. The attacker was Muslim.

The San Bernardino, Calif. shooting in 2015 was labeled as a terrorist attack. The attacker was Muslim.

The Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 was labeled as a terrorist attack. The attacker was Muslim.

See the pattern? Terrorism is defined by American law based on two requirements. First, the act must be a violent offense under state or federal law. Of course all

of the aforementioned examples easily meet this criterion. Second, the act must appear to be intended to intimidate a group of people or government in some way.

This clause is just vague enough to have absolutely no meaning. Any justification that shows one of these examples was intended to intimidate can be just as easily be applied to the other examples. There is only one factor linking the attacks labeled as terrorist attacks: the ethnicity or religion of the attacker.

I by no way mean to infer that the term "mass shooting" carries positivity with it. However, "terrorism" carries much more weight than "mass shooting" in contemporary American society. Mass shootings have been portrayed as anomalies, one-off events. Terrorism, on the other hand, is presented as an ever-present threat looming over American citizens.

The wars against terror have helped to engender a sense of nationalism against the "terrorists," while the attackers in a mass shooting are often viewed as mentally ill or disillusioned Americans. While these are legitimate concerns, there is no sense of "other" when it comes to the term of mass shooting.

The "other" ends up being Muslims. By using the provocative, although slightly meaningless, term of "terrorism" exclusively and universally with Muslims, a common enemy starts to form in the mind of American citizens. This image begins to apply to all Muslims, not just those who are radicalized or violent.

Much of the negative conno-

tation with Muslims stems from their identification with terrorists. They become the scapegoat of actions carried out by other groups.

While Muslims are put at the forefront of the mass shooting, they make up a small percent of the actual perpetrators of these attacks. White, American men are significantly more likely to commit a mass shooting or terrorist attack compared to Muslims.

It is disingenuous to the American public for the media and government to create a narrative that connects Muslims with terror. It fuels discrimination, justifying it through a sense of increased insecurity.

The most dangerous part of this is that by using Muslims as a scapegoat, the true issues that are causing these attacks are not addressed. There are many possible contributing factors to the prevalence of mass shootings in America. Mental health stigmas and lack of treatment, semi-automatic rifle regulation, or lack of security in transportation services are all possible explanations.

The validity of each of these arguments is for a different essay. The fact is that the ethnicity or religion of the attacker is not a contributing factor to mass shootings.

If we can't call the Las Vegas shooter a terrorist, then no large-scale attacker can be a terrorist. If some attacks are blamed on the work of terrorists, then every attack must be regarded as a terrorist attack, regardless of the person who committed it. It does not matter, in the end, what we name these attacks, as long as it remains consistent, regardless of who the perpetrator might be.

Samuel Farrar is a freshman from Brevard, N.C. He plans to major in political science.

The Democratic Party must change its message to succeed



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Jain argues that Hillary Clinton's loss exemplifies what is wrong with the Democratic Party.

By JORDAN JAIN

It has been almost a year since the 2016 election of Donald Trump, an election where Hillary Clinton lost the presidency to a reality star buffoon and one of the most unpopular major political candidates in modern American history.

The Democrats (who ran on a platform that largely defended the status quo) were annihilated, with Republicans controlling the Presidency, the House and the Senate, along with a vast majority of state legislatures and governorships. Vox reporter Matthew Yglesias put it best: "The whole Democratic Party is now a smoking pile of rubble."

So, have the Democrats learned anything from their devastating loss? Apparently not. Time and time again the Democratic Party shows us that they have no idea what they are doing and lack any good, clear strategy for winning in 2018 let alone 2020. Take this recent statement from the Democrats' twitter account: "Democrats are guided by our values. / We're committed to doing what's right for the American people."

What does this even mean? What specific policies are right for the American people? Why aren't Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer pushing for a strong message Americans can rally around (Medicare for All, Tuition-Free college, etc.)?

Hint, hint: It's because they don't want to upset their donors. If corporate establishment Democrats continue to dominate the Democratic Party with their lukewarm ideas, they will be poised to lose another election to Trump.

Democrats continue to show us that they are completely out of touch with what is happening to ordinary Americans and are divided on their strategy for winning upcoming elections. Clinton had made the mistake of building her campaign on fake politically correct outrage, airing ads about why Trump was "bad" because he used "naughty" language and running on the terribly self-centered slogan of "I'm with Her," which allowed Trump to easily counter by saying, "I'm with you, the American people".

Recently some Democrats embraced this same strategy of complaining about Trump and then they hope they'll miraculously win, without laying out any appealing progressive policies. At the same time, other Democrats have the brilliant new idea of being in favor of "jobs." But again, what does that mean? It is just a standard political buzzword which won't get anyone excited to vote for you.

It is the combination of being subservient to donors, as well as their detachment from reality in the Washington bubble that drags

the party further in a right-wing direction and leads to a lack of constituent representation.

Democrats need to appeal to their constituents by supporting specific popular policies (which polls show a majority of Americans support) such as Medicare for All, tuition-free college, getting money out of politics, legalizing marijuana and ending the War on Drugs, etc.

This then begs the question, is there any hope of change from within the Democratic Party that could propel them to victory in the future?

One glimmer of hope is the Medicare for All Bill proposed by Bernie Sanders, who found zero supporters back in 2014 for the same bill, but is now is supported by 15 other Senate Democrats (and curiously not supported by Democratic leadership like Pelosi). This is an idea which Hillary Clinton had enthusiastically said "will never come to pass."

Perhaps this is a sign that people are finally starting to listen to progressives. Although the Trump-obsessed media is largely ignoring it, a new progressive wave is sweeping the country, with progressives backed by Our Revolution and Justice Democrats already claiming victories in contests at the mayoral, city council and even statewide level, while also showing good prospects of winning in the 2018 midterms and beyond.

The philosophies of neoliberalism and Clintonite establishment Democrats lost the Democrats the election and destroyed the Democratic Party at virtually every level of government. Some may say that adoption of progressive policies will push the party "too far to the left," but again just look at the polls which show the enormous popularity of these progressive policies among all Americans, let alone Democrats.

Also, policies such as universal healthcare or raising the minimum wage are not radical among Americans or for the rest of the world. If the rest of the developed world has universal healthcare, why can't America have it as well? A party in bed with Wall Street, the military-industrial complex, big Pharma and health profiteers, will never be able to muster robust popular support to win elections.

If Democrats want to win in future elections, they must abandon the establishment and corporate interests, ideas which lost in 2016 and will continue to lose, and make the Democratic Party a party for the people and working class by uniting behind specific bold progressive ideals.

Jordan Jain is a freshmen majoring in International Studies and political science. He is from Worcester, United Kingdom.

Hip hop culture perpetuates dangerous drug use

By SAMMY BHATIA

Recreational drug use has always, to some extent, controlled the narrative of hip hop music. Hip hop of the 1980s reflected the gravity of the ongoing crack epidemic. Music of the 1990s, fueled by artists like Snoop Dogg, adhered to a ubiquitous admiration for recreational marijuana, whereas 2000s hip hop felt, at points, like a barefaced campaign for codeine abuse, a phenomenon Lil Wayne arguably spearheaded. This is probably half the reason your parents never wanted you listening to it — perhaps rightfully so.

This decade, rappers seem to have embraced a laundry list of other narcotics, some new, some not, many of which are heavily regulated prescription medications like Xanax, Percocet and Adderall. Others are Schedule I and II drugs.

Many of you probably remember rapper Trinidad James' 2012 song "All Gold Everything" for its unforgettable hook: "Popped a molly, I'm sweatin', woo." Otherwise known as ecstasy or MDMA, molly is psychoactive drug that generations of young people have used recreationally since the 1970s.

It is also a drug responsible for the deaths of hundreds of college-aged people, most notably at the Electric Zoo Festival in 2013, when two victims, one 23 and the other 20, collapsed after their body temperatures skyrocketed.

Four years later, Future raised the stakes with his single "Mask Off." Its all-too-familiar chorus of "Percocet, molly, Percocet" can really only be taken as an endorsement of mixing two drugs

which, by themselves, already have a high potential for lethal overdose. Beyond that, the terror in the song's popularity rests in its lack of artistry.

There is no wordplay or creativity in the hook. "Percocet, molly, Percocet" has no rhyme, no wordplay and even no real meaning, yet "Mask Off" is now certified Double-Platinum.

Kanye West also seemingly jumped on board in his most recent release, *The Life of Pablo*. In "No More Parties in LA," he raps, "If I knew y'all had made plans I wouldn't have popped the xans." A powerful benzodiazepine, Xanax is another prescription pill that has seen a massive uprise in usage, particularly among college-aged students.

In the same album, however, Kanye reveals that he has been seeing different psychiatrists in dealing with his mental health. And so, by that token, this line has a more personal and significant message when understood in context.

However, there is a line between a rapper revealing personal struggles with taking drugs like Xanax and rappers boasting about it. In "56 Nights," Future says, "I just took 56 bars all in one month n***a and I'm still drinkin'," a line that transcends the dangers of advocating drug use in general.

Instead it can only be understood as the rapper boasting about the extent and severity of his addiction, if he is being honest. And in decidedly Future-esque fashion, he talks about mixing the Xanax with alcohol, a combination that is known to cause seizures and death.

As listeners and instruments of the mainstream, we need to

ask ourselves, at what point does the main drive of the lyrics become entirely about drugs?

In June, Future performed "Mask Off" on ABC's Emmy Award-winning talk show *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. This is alarming. If we take Kimmel's show as one of many bastions of the modern mainstream, Future's performance indicates a conscious effort on its part to ignore the song's inexplicable content.

There is always a line, somewhere, between what we deem acceptable and what is nauseating in the message it sends. There is a line between smoking weed and abusing prescription pills. There is a line between making music revolving around an artist's honest account of his drug use and making music that glorifies addiction and lethal combinations of those drugs.

In "Just What I Am," Kid Cudi demonstrates the paradigm of a nuanced, important attitude towards drugs. "I diagnose my damn self," he says, "these pills ain't workin' fam." Cudi is open about his use of prescription pills to manage his mental health struggles. Moreover he expresses a certain skepticism towards clinical treatment in wanting to diagnose himself.

Much like rock, hip hop represents a distinct counterculture, and so it makes sense that we are seeing a newfound engagement to self medication. This is a conversation worth having and a reality worth grappling with. For our own sake, the realities that artists such as Future have normalized cannot be seen as normal.

Sammy Bhatia is a junior Writing Seminars major from Cranbury, N.J.

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THE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

OCTOBER 12, 2017

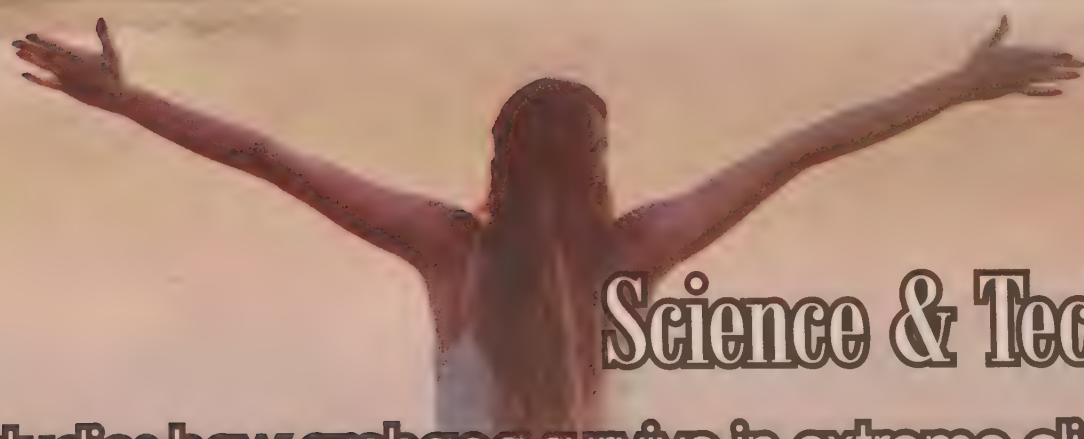


Arts & Entertainment

Artist Dan Mansion brings Baltimore's music scene to campus — B3

Blade Runner 2049 proves itself to be a worthy sequel — B3

English Professor Mary Favret shares her pop culture picks — B4



Science & Technology

Hopkins lab studies how archaea survive in extreme climates — B7

Psychologists find happiness through the mental state of "flow" — B7

Reflections on the lead-up to discovering gravitational waves — B9



Sports

M. Lacrosse plays Israel's national team at Homewood Field — B10

M. Soccer breaks winning streak, loses to Messiah College — B11

W. Volleyball defeats Generals and Mules in straight sets — B11

YOUR WEEKEND OCTOBER 12 - 15

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Pure Chocolate by Jinji

The Charmery

7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The Charmery is throwing a party, and you're invited! In order to celebrate Jinji's new iteration of Molé, the Charmery will be selling special ice cream tacos with spiced chocolate shells!

Non-dairy options are available.

Friday

The Nevermore Haunt

Shuttles running from Fell's Point

7 p.m. — 11 p.m.

Spend your Friday the 13th touring one of Baltimore's scariest haunted houses. Inspired by Baltimore's history, this haunted house boasts no animatronics or cheap gags. Free shuttles are available to pick you up from Fell's Point, but tickets should be reserved online for \$25.

Truck or Treat

Harbor Point Plaza

5 p.m. — 10 p.m.

This Halloween-themed food truck event boasts live music, a great waterfront view and, most importantly, a bunch of great food options. Show up in costume for a chance to win \$500 by getting first place in the costume competition.

Free.

Saturday

The Great Baltimore Oyster Festival

West Shore Park

1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Enjoy live music, great seafood and fun events including an oyster shucking contest. Beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages will also be available for those over 21. The event is free for all, though food tickets start at \$10.

Baltimore BrainFest

Liberty Rec Center

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Join this free event to learn more about (surprise!) your brain. Boasting activities, games, exhibitions and more, this all-ages event will keep you informed and having fun.

Sunday

Hampden Jamden Feat: Latasha Barnes

Hampden Jamden

7 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Join Latasha Barnes, World House of Dance and International Solo Jazz champion, for a fun night of dancing and live music. Tickets are \$7.

The Fell's Point Farmers Market is worth the trip

By RENEE SCAVONE
Your Weekend Editor

I've always been a farmer's market type of person, or at least I've always wanted to be a farmer's market type of person. It's important to have goals.

Despite my determination, it can be an uphill battle in college to drag yourself out of bed on a Saturday just for the sake of artisanal cheeses. However, I do believe there are some spots in Baltimore that make it worth it.

Most Hopkins students know about the Waverly Farmers' market, located at 32nd and Barclay Street. Though it's certainly the most convenient, the Waverly market isn't the only one worth checking out.

The Fell's Point Farmers Market proudly claims to

be "Baltimore's best waterfront market," which is only half true. This year the market is actually quite landlocked in a parking lot at Caroline and Thames Street.

I presume this less picturesque locale is due to the construction happening on Broadway, the market's previous location. While the parking lot may be less pretty, it's also less dusty, something I appreciate in the places I buy my food from.

And though the waterfront view might be slightly obstructed by the Morgan Stanley building, thankfully the aesthetic does not affect the quality of the market.

Notably smaller than the one in Waverly, the Fell's Point Farmers Market has many similar options, with

only slightly less variety. Fresh produce, flowers, weird things in jars, live entertainment from folk bands consisting only of older men and people with tattoos — all of the staples of the modern Saturday market are there.

If anything, the shift to the parking lot has made prices slightly cheaper than most of the booths in Waverly. Of course, with locally sourced produce, there are many variables that impact price, but I think the threat of dwindling customers is enough to make any vendor slash theirs.

One of the things that was most exciting to me was finding out that the single egg seller kept pasture chickens, aka chickens that have the most room to run around (as opposed to cage-free or the trickily titled free-range eggs). Furthermore, the prices were pretty low, especially for organic food.

Say what you want about Baltimore, \$8 can still get you a heck of a lot of eggs.

Another one of my favorite vendors is Pie Time, which serves sweet and savory pies, as you may have guessed. Definitely try their strawberry rhubarb, which tastes just like sitting on your grandfather's porch in mid July.

Although I cannot personally vouch for it because I have a steadfast dedication to Diablo Doughnuts, I will say that the line for Migues

Magnificent Mini Donuts is always popping. A visitor from D.C., Migues provides fun flavors like mocha crunch and apple maple bacon. I don't think there are such things as bad donuts, so I encourage you to give it a shot.

Of course, there are also the staples of any Baltimore farmers market: Charm City Meadworks and Zeke's Coffee. So if you go to Fell's and absolutely hate it, you'll still have those classics to fall back on.

By far the easiest way to get to and from the market is via car. However, this is an article for you all and so I won't assume that you have access to a ride.

So if you're willing to wait, you can take the Charm City Circulator after 9 a.m. This is a little inconvenient, because you have to transfer: Take the Purple Route to the Inner Harbor stop and then the Orange Route to the Caroline Street stop.

I would recommend biking there if you can get hold of a bike. Hopefully you've got a basket, otherwise it's a little tricky to actually buy groceries.

(Or maybe you don't even get groceries and just go for the snap story. That's also acceptable.)

Either way, the trek is definitely worth it. Get out of bed, hop on a bus, on a bike or into an Uber, and release your inner hipster at the Fell's Point Farmers Market.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

On Saturdays, Fell's Point boasts one of the best farmers' markets.

Charles Village Pub: "I've heard it's a nice place"

By CLAIRE BEAVER
For The News-Letter

With the stress of midterms upon us, many students are looking for a place to let their guard down and forget about grades for a while, myself included.

There seems to be no better place to do this than Charles Village Pub or CVP, as the kids call it.

(I mean, with the closing of PJ's, you don't really have anywhere else to go.)

CVP allows you to pick your poison, whether that includes watery beer or the harder stuff. They also boast a full menu of generic bar food, such as Buffalo Wings; Bacon, Cheddar, and Mozzarella fries; and Clam Strips, because clams are definitely what you would choose to eat at a bar.

And how could any Baltimore restaurant/bar/pub/gastropub/food truck forget to add some crab to the menu? CVP has got you covered, with delicacies like Jumbo Lump Crab Cake and Maryland Crab soup, both of which are probably coated in Old Bay seasoning, just how the locals like it.

In a valiant attempt to be a real restaurant as well as a bar that also serves food, they have steaks and sandwiches as well. Thursday night is CVP Steak Night: It's \$11.95 for a 10 oz. N.Y. Strip and choice of one side. Sounds reasonable, though I honestly

don't know how steaks are priced. I have never eaten steak from a sports bar, but if CVP dedicated an entire night to promoting theirs, I'm sure they're not awful.

They've also got a pinball machine and a cigarette dispenser, if that's your thing.

You don't have to be 21 to enter, which is a bonus for underclassmen looking for the feel of a real bar for adults and who think the drinking age should "just be 18!" The atmosphere is just tense enough to remind you that life is hard, yet light enough to encourage you to forget it.

Unsurprisingly, CVP is wildly popular among grad students.

Charles Village Pub also has weekly specials, including "BIG DADDY PUB BURGER NIGHT," to directly quote the website, and my personal favorite, Sunday Brunch.

Why would you go to Pete's Grille in Waverly or City Cafe in Mount Vernon when you could have \$3 mimo-

sas in a sports bar near a college?

The staff is full of friendly people who are easy to strike up a conversation with, who I honestly can't make fun of without feeling slightly guilty about it.

CVP has an array of seating options, including both indoor and outdoor tables. You can sit at the bar or get sit-down service.

If you sit outside, there will definitely be plenty of awkward Hopkins students standing at the entrance trying to decide if they should go in or not, as well as Baltimore locals stopping by after a long day at work.

One of my favorite parts has got to be the blinding yet simultaneously dull neon yellow sign with red lettering that illuminates the street. I believe that the sign, a true staple of

St. Paul Street, emphasizes the hustle and bustle of Charles Village created by students in the midst of a breakdown. There's nothing like contrasting primary colors to get your night started the right way.

If you are in a sorority on campus or have been awkwardly set up with a girl who is, you've probably been to the Charles Village Pub already. Not this one, though, it's usually the one in Towson. They're basically the same, except for the fact the Towson one is way bigger, better and does not have Hopkins-student level anxiety surrounding it.

While this article is just a tad satirical, CVP is a fun place to chill with friends, whether you're drinking or not. At least that's what I've been told. Check it out!



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU

Charles Village Pub is located on St. Paul Street and is frequented by Hopkins students.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dan Mansion: The life of a Baltimore musician

Compelling Blade Runner sequel stuns audiences



COURTESY OF DAN MANSION
Mansion is a Baltimore native who has been making music for five years.

By **WILL KIRSCH**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Baltimore’s disparate music scene is one of the most underappreciated great things in both the country and in the City itself. Even in an urban sprawl with eight universities, local talent is so often unexplored in favor of whatever pop sound defines each genre nationally. The problem seems to be particularly acute at Hopkins, a place where the Baltimore music scene is, quite literally, on-campus.

Dan Mansion is, by his own description, “a producer, rapper, singer, musician: Whatever you want to call it.” He also works at the Daily Grind in Brody Cafe, the favored destination of the desperate, depleted and defeated student working their way through another day. So we at *The News-Letter* reached out to him to talk about his music, the Baltimore scene and making coffee.

Mansion, 24, whose real name is Eric, is a Baltimore native who moved away and then came back. He is a fairly unassuming guy with a reserved and amicable manner, braided hair and a cozy aesthetic.

He met up with me in the library for an interview that eventually turned into a conversation about South Park, Kanye West’s mom, Yeezus himself, Pharrell in his pre-“Happy” years, gentrification and Baltimore’s path to greatness.

Mansion started making music as Dan Mansion when he was 19, although his roots go back further.

He got into playing the guitar and rapping when he was in middle school. In high school, Mansion formed what he called “a Paramore type rip-off band” while still writing raps and experimenting with making beats. For him, music made sense.

“I don’t know, I just always listened to music and it was always a part of my life. Whenever I watch interviews they always say that shit, but I don’t know — it just makes sense when you’re around it,” he said.

Mansion is part of Peer Group, a music collective made up of Joey Bricks, Jupe Fury, Steve Stellar, YRD and Mansion himself.

Jupe Fury, whose real name is Will (a great name), and Mansion started the group, later adding Steve Stellar (Jamiyah) after Mansion encouraged her to freestyle over a beat he produced. YRD/Yerden (Jordan) is a childhood friend of Mansion’s who also produces.

Alpha, whose rap name is Joey Bricks, went to Morgan State University with Dan, where the two met.

After losing touch, Mansion and Alpha were coincidentally reunited when the latter got a job at Daily Grind, after which he joined Peer Group.

So much of the underground rap scene today is based on the internet; sites like SoundCloud and Bandcamp allow artists to work around record labels, cutting out the middleman between them and the fans.

“You can do everything yourself and that’s basically what I’m doing,” Mansion said.

Appropriately, Mansion got his start making beats by using a trial version of the digital-audio workshop FruityLoops, now called FL Studio.

The internet is also a place where musicians can interact, learn, collaborate and teach. Mansion’s life in music is inexorably linked to the online community.

Early on he was writing raps on a now defunct forum called Universal Emcees, where rappers would share verses, critiquing and

SEE DAN MANSION, B4

By **LUIS CURIEL**
For *The News-Letter*

In 1982, Ridley Scott and Harrison Ford gave us perhaps one of the best science fiction films of all time. This, of course, is the box-office failure, but critically acclaimed, film *Blade Runner*.

The film is set in dystopian Los Angeles in the year 2019 and follows LAPD officer Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford) as he’s sent to hunt synthetic humans (these types of officers are called Blade Runners), known as replicants who are on Earth illegally (they are commonly used as a workforce for offworld colonies).

The film was not only revolutionary in terms of effects with its world development full of giant billboards and smoggy, claustrophobic Los Angeles setting, but also in its themes.

The film explores humanity at its core. Deckard’s use of an empathy test to distinguish between human and replicant is meant to reflect the cold bitterness of this dark future.

It leaves us wondering why we give ourselves the absolute authority to assign humanity to others. This theme has been explored in the HBO series *Westworld* and Alex Garland’s directorial debut *Ex Machina*.

The announcement of a sequel to *Blade Runner* was met with some serious questions, primarily who would be entrusted with the world that Ridley Scott created all those years ago.

We’ve already seen that Scott isn’t good at letting go (just look at the *Alien*

franchise), but his commitment to continuing the story he started in *Prometheus* led to the mission of finding someone else.

Enter Denis Villeneuve, a French-Canadian director who, at the time of the announcement that he would be directing the sequel *Blade Runner 2049*, was known mostly for the thriller *Prisoners*, which starred Jake Gyllenhaal and Hugh Jackman.

It’s safe to say Villeneuve’s attachment to the project was considered a risky decision up until he released *Sicario* in 2015 and *Arrival* in 2016. The latter was nominated for the Oscar for Best Picture and is widely considered as one of the best films of that year.

Villeneuve’s ability to create films that have you at the edge of your seat while bringing philosophical and ethical questions to the forefront was perfect for the world of *Blade Runner*.

Throughout the production of the film, plans were kept tightly under wraps. Nobody really knew what was going to happen with the plot synopsis and trailers either.

Well I’m here to tell you to avoid reading anything other than this review. Everything is a spoiler thanks to the fantastic marketing campaign that Warner Bros. employed.

The ba-

sics are these: K (Ryan Gosling) is an LAPD officer that is sent out to retire old models.

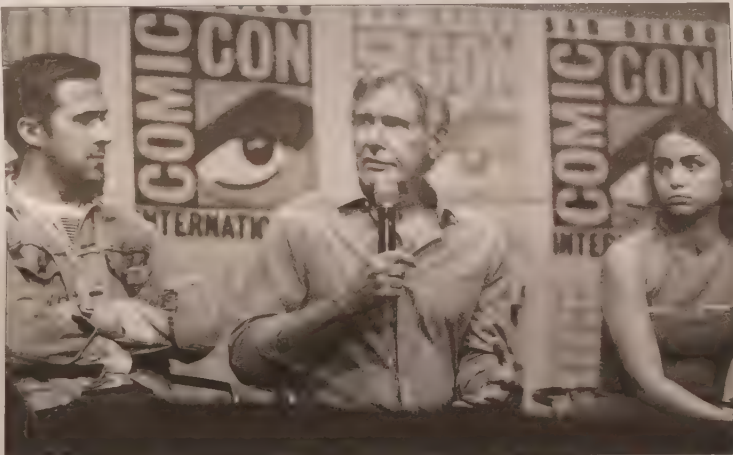
On one of his missions he discovers something that shouldn’t be possible. This leads him to search for a man long thought dead: Rick Deckard, the original *Blade Runner*.

In the midst of all this, Niander Wallace (Jared Leto) and his assistant Luv (Sylvia Hoeks) are also searching for Deckard so they can learn how to develop better replicants.

The cast is rounded out by the fantastic Robin Wright as Lieutenant Joshi and Ana de Armas as the holographic A.I. girlfriend Joi. It’s a little difficult to discuss this movie without spoiling anything, so bear with me.

Ryan Gosling is at his best here, showing us his acting range as he did in films like *Drive* and *The Nice Guys*.

He’s able to convey every emotion through facial expressions while also giving K enough tics to where we can tell that he’s beginning to question his own mission and his own purpose in life.



GAGE SKDIMORE/CC BY-SA 2.0
Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford and Ana De Armas all star in the daring sequel, *Blade Runner 2049*.

Author Joshua Davis explores ties between activism and business

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Senior Staff Writer

Red Emma’s Bookstore hosted a talk on the history of social enterprise and fair trade in Baltimore, on Oct. 5. The event was centered around a new book titled *From Head Shops to Whole Foods: The Rise and Fall of Activist Entrepreneurs* written by Joshua Clark Davis, a professor and researcher at the University of Baltimore.

According to the University of Baltimore’s website, Davis’ work focuses on 20th century U.S. history. Specifically, he is interested in capitalism, social movements, urban history and African American history.

The event began with an introduction by Cullen

Nawalkowsky, one of the co-founders of Red Emma’s. Nawalkowsky introduced the topic of the evening: current businesses profiting off of the progressive, community-minded language and ideas of past enterprises.

He also posed a central question: How can local businesses seek to serve communities rather than exploit them for profit?

After Nawalkowsky’s introduction, Davis began his talk by describing the unique benefits of Red Emma’s in the city of Baltimore.

He stressed how fortunate Baltimore is to have a center for community discussion and dialogue, since many cities do not.

Davis then launched into a discussion of the topics detailed in his book,

starting with the history of small, radical businesses in Baltimore.

He first spoke about W. Paul Coates, the founder of the Black Classic Press in 1978 and father of the well-known author and educator Ta-Nehisi Coates.

He then told a short anecdote about how a male *Washington Post* reporter was rejected by the all-female staff of the Diana Press, a feminist press once based at 25th Street and N. Charles Street, where a CVS Pharmacy now stands.

Continuing on the topic of progressive enterprises, Davis spoke about headshops, as mentioned in the title of his book. For those in the crowd who were not familiar with the term, Davis explained that they were small smoke shops founded by hippies in the mid-20th-century.

One example he gave was the Pratt Street Conspiracy, a co-op that sought to provide low-income residents with an alternative to shopping at expensive stores downtown.

Davis emphasized that these small shops run by “activist entrepreneurs” prioritized social and political change over profit.

He elaborated on three key elements where

they had hoped to bring change: products, places and process.

While “products” related to selling items that advanced fair trade and other political agendas, “places” referred to creating a “free space” — a modern-day “safe space” — for marginalized groups who were often turned away from other establishments.

Due to economic strife, many of these bookstores, presses and headshops were forced to close down or transition into more mainstream, capital-minded businesses.

In their place are companies that, as Davis explained, rely on progressive language to draw in customers without truly seeking to benefit communities or bring about change.

Davis sees many modern-day companies like Whole Foods, which capitalize off of these notions of fair trade and community, as the antithesis of what the “activist entrepreneurs” had sought to create.

He pointed specifically to the conservative views of Whole Foods co-founder John Mackey, as well as the expensive and exclusive nature of its stores.

He also pointed to tech companies like Apple that

His companion is Joi, who is nothing more than a form of artificial intelligence that is created to serve whoever owns the technology.

Ana de Armas is great in the role as the wide-eyed and sentimental Joi. However, she’s little more than a complement to K, giving the audience a view into K’s world and how mundane it really is.

Harrison Ford’s return as Rick Deckard is fantastic; it really feels like he is acting and not phoning it in (a la *Indiana Jones and The Crystal Skull*). Robin Wright also does a great job in her small role.

However, the standout is definitely Sylvia Hoeks as Luv, who isn’t just Wallace’s right hand. She is her own character who aspires to be more human (she is a replicant, but that’s been obvious since the trailer) by being the best replicant out there.

The weakest member of the cast is hands down Jared Leto who, although he is much better here than as the Joker in last summer’s god-awful *Suicide Squad*, doesn’t serve

SEE BLADE RUNNER, B5



SIANKEVANS/CC BY-SA 4.0
Joshua Davis discussed various activist-entrepreneurs at Red Emma’s.

Mansion discusses his career in the Baltimore scene

DAN MANSION, FROM B3

admiring each other's work.

"They called them key-styles; you'd just like free-style out, write a whole paragraph or a verse or whatever and post it, then people would comment on it and give you feedback," Mansion said.

Mansion's longtime friend and member of Peer Group, Shane Cromwell, introduced him to Universal Emcees. Back then, Shane also rapped, although he now works in videography. He's shot a number of videos for Mansion, and for other Baltimore artists like Kotic Couture.

At the moment, Mansion feels pretty good about his music career. His latest album *Trash-Fi* got picked up by Detroit label TrashFuck Records, and is currently selling as a cassette.

"I've been doing this since I was 19 — I'm 24 now

so if I was doing this and nothing was happen- ing, I probably would have stopped. But little shit here and there keeps happen- ing and I'm like, 'okay, I can keep doing this,'" he said.

Trash-Fi features verses from Jupe Fury and Joey Bricks as well as YRD pro- duction. It is a balance of wavy and heavy beats, laced with bars that are a mix of humor, wordplay and a flow with a mean change-up.

The tape is his third, fol- lowing 2016's *Loading* and 2015's *Blowshki*, as well as a number of singles and standalone tracks.

True to the do-it-yourself lifestyle, Mansion does much of his own produc- tion, crafting beats that blend genres together.

"I'm not just into hip hop. Hip hop is a combi- nation of a whole bunch of other genres anyway," Mansion said, explaining

the eclectic influences that drive his sound.

His flow has similar multifaceted character- istics; one can hear an element of rock in his de- livery on songs like "FLA- MEZ," where he spits out his verses and cuts them with a grimy chorus.

In the same track, Man- sion uses the human voice as a part of the rhythm, a technique explored thor- oughly by Kanye through- out his career.

Mansion cited Kanye as a major influence, along with Pharrell and Timbaland.

Electronic dance music is also a significant influ- ence on Mansion's produc- tion, which is most evident in some of his instrumental tracks.

"I'm really into EDM or whatever you want to call it," Mansion said. "If I could take some of that shit and put it into hip hop... I feel like people aren't re- ally doing that a lot."

Mansion's wide-ranging style in part reflects the art-rap scene in Baltimore, where artists of seemingly antithetical styles stand to- gether on songs.

Mansion is excited about potential collaborations but is also wary of scene politics. Working with his friends in Peer Group lets him rise above some of that, although he expressed interest in linking up with artists like 3ION.

Overall Mansion is op- timistic about the scene in Baltimore. Even as art- ists like JPEGMAFIA leave the city in pursuit of their growing fame, national outlets like *Complex* and *Noisey* have been looking harder at Baltimore's scene.

Mansion sees positive growth both for the scene and for the City itself.

"Five to seven years from now, I feel like Baltimore will be at a better place than it is now," he said.

Next week on Oct. 17, Mansion and Steve Stellar will be playing at The Windup Space in Station North. Stellar will soon be releasing an EP, so be sure to check that out.

As for Mansion, he's hop- ing to make a full-length al- bum over the coming sum- mer.

"I want this one to be the best thing I've done," Mansion said.

He spoke about hoping to "have something [he] can look back on and have some longevity with."

In the meantime go lis- ten to *Trash-Fi* on Sound- cloud and Bandcamp, or buy the tape; cassettes are coming back. Also check out the other members of Peer Group — Jupe Fury, Joey Bricks, Steve Stellar and YRD — all of whom can be found on Sound- cloud.

Most importantly, go to shows and support the music. If you're too lame to do any of that, how about you say what's up to a few local working musicians the next time you buy some coffee?



COURTESY OF DAN MANSION
Mansion's third mixtape, *Trash-Fi*, was recently released on cassette.

Film series celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Senior Staff Writer

The Maryland Film Festival and PNC Bank are paying homage to Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting the Latin American Visionary Cinema series. Screenings began on Sept. 16 and will continue through Oct. 15.

The series includes screenings of 12 films from filmmakers across the Latin American community. These films span an array of genres and represent 10 countries.

Many of them are also films that were not widely distributed in theaters across the U.S., so this series was an opportunity for audiences to view films that they may not have had access to otherwise.

The series includes four films by Mexican directors: Fernando Eimbcke's *Club Sandwich*, Adrián García Bogliano's *Here Comes the Devil*, Betzabé García's *Kings of Nowhere* and Carlos Reygadas' *Post Tenebras Lux*.

Representing Costa Rica is *Cold Water of the Sea*, directed by Paz Fábrega.

Meanwhile Patricio Guzmán represents Chile with *Nostalgia for the Light*.

Argentinian director Lisandro Alonso's *Jauja* is another film that has been included in the series' line-up.

Ciro Guerra's *Embrace of the Serpent* jointly represents Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina.

Guatemala is represented by Jayro Bustamante's *Ixcanul*, and the festiva-

l chose to include Kleber Mendonça Filho's *Neighboring Sounds* from Brazil. The series will conclude this Saturday with Cuban director Enrique Álvarez's drama *Venice*.

Venice follows three female friends, Monica, Violeta and Mayelin, over the course of an evening in Havana, Cuba.

All three women work as hairdressers at the same hair salon to make ends meet. On the night the film takes place, however, they make a spur-of-the-moment pact to spend their paychecks on going out on the town.

Venice is a study of the bonds between the trinity of women and how they evolve, as well as a study of each individual character in and of herself.

The improvised nature of much of the dialogue combined with Álvarez's unflinching exploration of parts of Cuba's more grimy, less picturesque side helps give the film an organic quality; you feel like these women and their stories could be real.

National Hispanic Heritage Month began on Sept. 15 and continues until Oct. 15 and celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of people of Spanish, Mexican, Caribbean and Central and Southern American descent.

Sept. 15 was chosen as it is celebrated as Independence Day in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The month had its symbolic end with the celebration of Día de la Raza, or Day of the Race, on October 12.

The Parkway series is a wonderful complement to the admirable successes of Hispanic directors in mainstream film.

Two well-known Latin American directors who have found recent success in Hollywood are Mexican directors Alejandro González Iñárritu and Alfonso Cuarón.

Cuarón and Iñárritu are the only Latin Americans to win both the Academy Award and the Directors Guild of America award for Best Director.

In 2014, Iñárritu won the Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture for *Birdman* or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*.

Iñárritu also won the 2015 Best Director Oscar for *The Revenant*, the Alaskan wilderness epic that won Leonardo DiCaprio the Academy Award for Best Actor which the Internet so earnestly believed he deserved.

Iñárritu's virtual reality project "Carne y Arena" was first presented at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival and later featured at the Prada Foundation in Milan. It is now showing at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

This virtual reality exhibition focuses on the experiences of refugees and immigrants, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the lives and struggles of Mexican and Central American refugees through a six-and-a-half minute virtual reality sequence.

Perhaps there is something implicitly political about the choice to showcase artistic excellence in Latin American film in the age of a president who threatens to build a wall across the Southern border.

In the time of Trump's presidency, celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of Hispanic art is now a revolutionary act.



FOCUS FEATURES/CC BY-SA 3.0
Alejandro González Iñárritu won Best Director at the 2014 Oscars.

Professor Mary Favret's pop culture picks



COURTESY OF MARY FAVRET
Professor Favret is a faculty member in the English department.

1. WYPR's *Out of the Blocks* Podcast

As a relative newcomer to Baltimore, I love this very human introduction to the city, block by block. With its wealth of remarkable stories and voices, it brings me into Baltimore.

2. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, and the Hulu TV show

Read Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel from 1985 and then watch the way Hulu updates it (with Atwood's participation) for TV. Superb acting and cinematography bolster a thorough lesson on the politics of sex and gender, the value of reproductive rights and the separation of church and state.

3. *Jezebel.com*

Most of the time, I feel a little too old to be reading this feminist news site: It is bold, glossy and very first world, whereas my feminism tends to be more cerebral and dusty (an aging first world). Still, it's absolutely alert to and unfiltered about what matters to women in this culture and doesn't mask the power dynamics of a sexist, racist society (read them on Puerto Rico).

4. Gillian Welch

I like the roots-y ballad form when it brings me voices I'd rather not hear and makes them unforgettable. Welch's song-writing captures such voices in music as stunning as it is disturbing. Listen to her album *Time (The Revelator)* check out "Elivs Presley Blues."

Local theater company presents a modern take on *Julius Caesar*



COURTESY OF CHEESAPEAKE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Caitlin Carbone as Octavia Caesar joins forces with Mar Antonia, played by Briana Manente, to avenge Caesar.

By **LAUREN PADILLA**
For *The News-Letter*

A politician with red lipstick and a peplum blazer looms over a crowd of supporters. Anxiously, officers in brown, 1940s-style army uniforms strategize over their next tactic. With a gentle sigh, a young boy reclines against a bed, softly strumming his ukulele.

While the moments may seem unrelated, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (CSC) manages to weave them together in its fall production of *Julius Caesar*.

Originally, the play (written by William Shakespeare around 1599) surrounds the downfall of the famed Roman general Julius Caesar and the messy political dynamics following his death.

However, in this adaptation, directed by Michael Tolaydo, Baltimore's CSC took a new approach.

"We wanted to create a really timeless production," Kristina Martin, the show's costume designer, said according to *The Baltimore Sun*.

Martin compared this production to her past experiences with the piece.

"I've worked on *Julius Caesar* before, but I think we [at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company] were able to do something different — that's really its own unique experience," she said.

So although the actors still speak in classic Shakespearean tongue, many of the production's other elements, from its casting to its costumes, are drastically different.

Mar Antonia, Caesar's

loyal friend (played by Briana Manente), replaces Mark Antony. Octavia Caesar (played by Caitlin Carbone), rather than Octavius, is Caesar's heir. Instead of donning togas and laurel wreaths, the characters sport power suits and neckties.

"All of [the costumes] were a little different. Some were a little 70s. Some were a little 40s. The goal was to integrate them into a more modern feel," Martin said.

While at first the mix of eras seems disorienting, it ultimately lends visual texture to the show. Antonia's retro red blouse and high heels convey her sense of confidence.

The conspirators' matching green scarves, shirts and ties suggest their unity. Caesar's bright white suit makes his violent

demise that much more powerful.

Hopkins junior Jessica Liu attended the opening night performance. She thought that while the addition of female senators and political figures certainly adds depth and modernity to the show, there are certain points where the casting conflicts with the script.

"I liked that they made an effort at gender diversity by making some of the characters female, but I also thought it didn't make sense plot-wise," she said. "Some of the most powerful characters in the play, like Caesar's heir, were women, but at the same time Brutus' wife talked about the inherent weakness of women."

Liu argued that while she appreciated the intent, she was not convinced by the execution.

"I understand that the director didn't want to change the original [text], but it just seemed a little clumsily executed," she said.

Nevertheless, many of the show's best moments occur because of the contemporary twist. In an especially poignant encounter, Brutus, on the battlefield, asks his servant Lucius (played by Imani Turner) to play him a song.

Lucius gently begins to strum his ukulele, singing the words to Bob Dylan's "I Was Young When I Left Home."

"What I liked about [the production] is that it was so contemporary. It feels like *House of Cards* meets William Shakespeare," Mike Smith, who also attended the show's opening night performance, said.

Chesapeake Shakespeare isn't the first company to stage a recent, modern adaptation of *Julius Caesar*.

This past summer, the Public Theater's production of *Julius Caesar*, in which the title character was dressed to look like Donald Trump, spurred protests in New York City and attracted national attention from major news outlets.

Still, Tolaydo has expressed a desire to keep the CSC's production from "superimposing" the story onto particular political figures.

"The play deals with protecting a form of government that worked (for some) and is suddenly threatened by change," he said.

Remarking on the applicability of the show's message to today's political development, Tolaydo said simply, "Let the audience decide for themselves."

Julius Caesar runs from Sept. 19 through Oct. 29, 2017. Tickets are priced from \$16 to \$50, and student tickets are available. Visit ChesapeakeShakespeare.com or call the box office at 410-244-8570 for more details.

Gosling and Ford are the perfect duo

BLADE RUNNER, FROM B3

any real purpose.

The philosophical questions that he brings up in most of his monologues are expositional dumps that make it a little bit easier to understand what the stakes are, but by the end of the day he just kinda creeps you out. Luv is the real antagonist in this story and she's great at being a foil to Gosling's K.

Even if you aren't into deep existential questions about humanity and whether we have the authority to define who is subhuman, go see this movie because holy hell is it gorgeous.

Roger Deakins (*Skyfall*, *No Country for Old Men*) is the cinematographer; he and Villeneuve create a world that not only captures that of the original film but also expands on it.

The neon colors blend in so well with the smoggy, dark, cold Los Angeles that we are shown and can only assume has gone through so much ecological damage.

The use of silhouettes is prominent in the film — further emphasizing the debate of "human or not human" — and the strong oranges in the futuristic version of Las Vegas are absolutely freaking beautiful.

The overhead and establishing shots that are a huge part of this film's beauty are complemented spectacularly by an amazing score by Hans Zimmer.

The combination drags you into the different environments, quickly changing pace and tone. This really hits you with the sentimental and thought provoking moments in the film.

Creating a sequel to *Blade Runner* wasn't only a challenge due to the complexity of the themes that the first film explored, but it was also a financial risk.

Although Villeneuve has a history of working with smaller budget films, the cast and his rising star in Hollywood led to such a massive budget.

This is something that — judging from the box office numbers at the end of the weekend — will come back to stain this fantastic film and potentially hinder another sequel and Villeneuve's rising star.

Regardless, *Blade Runner 2049* is an example of a successful sequel. Villeneuve managed to celebrate the work of Scott while creating something new and beautiful in its own right. Basically, this is the opposite of *Spider-Man 3*.

2049 is a true sequel to the first film and expands on its thematic elements. It's a gorgeous watch, and the cast does an amazing job with their performances.

If you want to watch something that makes you question your own humanity then this is the movie for you.

Wye Oak excites fans with a taste of their forthcoming album

By **DUBRAY KINNEY**
Arts Editor Emeritus

Baltimore-based indie rock group Wye Oak played the Ottobar this past Saturday. During the opening moments of their set, they announced that they were done recording their newest album, and they also attached a tentative release date of early 2018.

The indie rock duo was formed in 2006 and comprises multi-instrumentalists Jenn Wasner (who also does vocals and performs solo under the name, Flock of Dimes) and Andy Stack (who usually handles percussion).

The band is signed to Merge Records and has released multiple critically acclaimed albums, including their breakthrough *Civilian* in 2011 and *Shriek* in 2014, which saw the band take a more electronic approach to their sound.

Wye Oaks' latest studio album *Tween* was released in 2016 and featured all

songs that were repurposed from previous recording and writing sessions for their previous two records.

Leading up to the show there were rumors that the band had new material in the works, and that some of the new songs on the album would be played during the show.

Much to the excitement of the crowd, although Wye Oak played some older songs (as well as some weirder stuff), the vast majority of the songs were newer.

These songs included, "You Ain't No Natural" which saw a bit of a change in direction for the band.

It is a bass-driven song, the lyrics revolving around the chorus with Wasner singing, "You ain't no natural" in a soft voice that seemed in a way to counter the slow funky feeling of the song, but it works nonetheless.

"Do You Think Life Will Be Better" was also a new

track they performed and mentioned to be on the tracklist for their upcoming release.

"I Know It's Real," another new track that the band noted is their forthcoming album's closing song uses a slow tempo similar to some of Wye Oak's best work, including "Civilian" (off the album of the same name) which the band also played.

Finally the band mentioned "Spiral," which may be another track that could find its way onto the final tracklist for the album, although it has already been released as the A-side of their newest single "Spiral/Wave Is Not The Water."

The band also opened with "Wave Is Not The Water."

Throughout the show, the most distinctive aspects of their performance were how powerful Wasner's voice was and how good the chemistry between the pair was.

Wasner belted the lyrics as her voice carried gracefully throughout the Ottobar and tied the multiple songs they performed together.

There's also the fact that Wasner mentioned that she had a cold half-way through the show,



ENDLESS AUTUMN/CC BY-SA 2.0
Baltimore indie rock duo Wye Oak was founded by Andy Stack and Jess Wasner in 2006.

something I couldn't notice from the quality of her singing.

Their interactions with one another felt carefree, not to say that there was a lack of effort, more so that this was a homecoming for them and they performed accordingly.

Another noteworthy performance was that of "The Tower" from their 2014 album *Shriek*.

Most of the songs went back to their guitar-driven roots, but the electronic sounds of "The Tower" eked their way onto the setlist.

After closing out their set the band left the stage, only to be showered with shouts of encore before they returned.

The two highlights of this encore was an impromptu cover of Joni Mitchell's "Coyote" with Wasner working her way through the lyrics quickly (though she did stumble a few times).

Wasner's mom was also in the audience and the entire crowd sang happy

birthday for her before the band played their final song, "For Prayer" from 2009's *The Knot*, an oldie but a goodie.

More cheers followed as the band left the stage and Wye Oak's seemingly annual sold-out performance at the Ottobar came to a close with the same fanfare that it started with as everyone closed out their bar tabs, drank the last of their Boh and tried to make the rest of the Friday night worth a little something.

Wye Oak's brand of indie rock has stood the test of time that several other Baltimore bands couldn't.

Their tenure as one of the most well-established bands from the City has continued uninterrupted, even while other acts like Ponytail, Double Dagger and Dope Body have fallen out of the spotlight.

Yet Wye Oak has persevered for a little over a decade, and it showed at their performance. Even the smallest intricacies were polished to perfection.

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Errata: October 5 Edition

In the October 5th edition of *The News-Letter*, Anita Louie was identified with the incorrect pronouns he/him/his in the article "Witness Showcase highlights talent both onstage and behind the scenes." Louie's pronouns are she/her/her's.

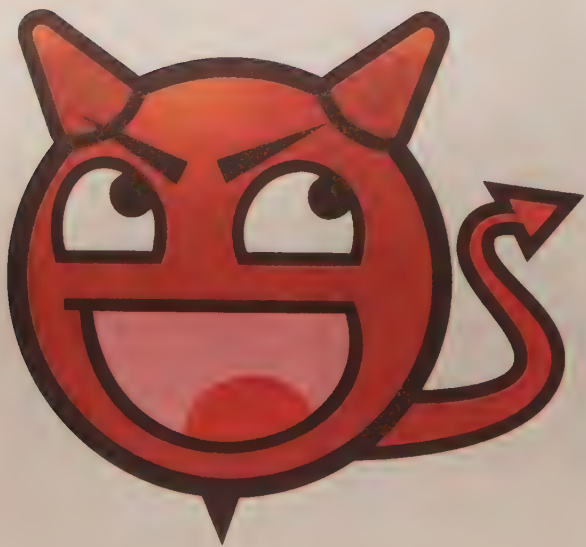
The News-Letter regrets this error.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Trashy Humor



By: GISELLE RUIZ



Unscramble the ingredients for a “happy and successful” student

1. BAILRRY _____
2. RFIFNEGUS _____
3. UYGITDSN _____
4. TOXETKOB _____
5. AEIUDTNCO _____
6. EIIGGENENNR _____
7. ELEVD-L _____
8. IOEFCF USHRO _____
9. SETSSR _____
10. AEXTNYI _____

By: GISELLE RUIZ

DO YOU LIKE DRAWING?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE
FEATURED IN THE JOHNS
HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER?
SUBMIT ANY CARTOONS OR
ILLUSTRATIONS TO
CARTOONS@JHUNWSLETTER.
COM!!

Hope Everyone Makes it Through
Yet Another Hell Week :)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins lab studies archaea in harsh environments



COURTESY OF JOCELYNE DIRUGGIERO

Hopkins professor Jocelyne DiRuggiero spends time researching in extreme climates such as the desert.

By **JAEMIE BENNETT**
For *The News-Letter*

Where there's a will, there's a way. For extremophiles, those words aren't just a mantra but a way of life. Thriving in environments from volcanoes to the frozen Arctic, extremophiles have found a way to adapt to the harshest environments on Earth. Research professor Jocelyne DiRuggiero and her team at Hopkins are studying these extremophiles to learn how they have come to be so versatile.

"Some questions I had at the beginning of my career that had to do with how microbial communities assemble and evolve in the environment are still the same," DiRuggiero said.

Before coming to Hopkins, DiRuggiero worked at Claude Bernard University Lyon 1 in France and then at the University of Maryland. She has now been at Hopkins for about eight years.

"When I came to the U.S. I got interested in extreme environments. I just love volcanoes, so it was a perfect for me," DiRuggiero said.

To study microorganisms in these extreme environments, DiRuggiero's lab uses archaea as a model system.

Archaea is one of the three domains of life, along with bacteria and eukarya, which all life is descended from. DiRuggiero explained that these are the best extremophiles to work with because in extreme environments like high salt concentrations or high temperatures, it is more common to find archaea than bacteria.

Archaea also share a more recent common ancestor with eukarya, the domain that includes *Homo sapiens*. Humans and archaea have similar processes of DNA replication, a process that is fundamental to life.

DiRuggiero and her team focus on studying archaea that grow in rocks,

in such extreme environments. They also look at microbial communities to learn about their genetic diversity and what mechanisms sustain their ecosystem.

One focus in the lab is to understand how early life may have spread and evolved across Earth. In order to do so, DiRuggiero and her team must study rocks from deserts across the globe. This inspired them to create a citizen science project called Rockiology.

"We need to collect samples from all around the world, as many as we can. But I can't go to every single desert around the world," DiRuggiero said.

Citizen science is a general term for research that is conducted in part by amateur scientists. Rockiology asks amateur archaeologists to go into deserts, collect rocks that have been colonized by microbes and send them into DiRuggiero's lab for analysis.

This way the team can study the differences in microbial extremophiles in different parts of the world. The study aims to answer whether all early life was initially dispersed over the entire Earth or if there

were regional pockets that evolved separately at first.

Rockiology is a new program, but it has already reached far beyond Baltimore. DiRuggiero explained that someone in Arizona who homeschools children has contacted her and is now designing a curriculum based on Rockiology for the homeschooled students.

Beyond understanding the extremes of life on Earth, DiRuggiero's work has implications much greater than our little planet; it can give insight into possible extraterrestrial life.

"If you look in the solar system — the closest place we can go — all these habitats where we think we might find life are very extreme," DiRuggiero said. "If you understand what are the extremes of life on Earth, then you can think, 'Where are the places where I can find life?'"

DiRuggiero also explained that by studying the microorganism communities found in rocks on Earth, we can narrow down locations where evidence of life might be found on Mars.

She went on to say that being able to teach and mentor graduate students makes her work that much more rewarding.

"Recently my graduate student submitted his first paper, and it was really big for him, and I was really happy. Those are the moments that you really feel proud about the students that you train," she said.

When asked about her research, DiRuggiero said she also takes pride in the papers she has published.

Until the next one is published, DiRuggiero's lab continues to study extremophiles and how they adapt to the most extreme environments on Earth.

New Maryland statute regulates big Pharma



PUBLIC DOMAIN

EpiPens are one vital drug that have soared in price over the years.

By **AVERY GULINO**
For *The News-Letter*

To those who suffer from allergies, EpiPens, or epinephrine injections, are the difference between life and death. Yet many families without health insurance have to take the risk, because they cannot afford EpiPens, which can set a family back

anywhere from \$300 to \$630 just for a pack of two.

EpiPens are not the only incredibly vital drug that has soared in price over the last few years. The average market price of doxycycline hyclate, a powerful antibiotic that can combat pneumonia and lyme disease, has skyrocketed from \$20 to \$1849. In other words, the price increased by more than 1,800 percent in only six months.

State and local governments around the country have taken notice of these gross markups and are working to prevent them

in order to make medicine available to those who need it.

In Maryland specifically, lawmakers have been working to enact a law that will allow the state to sue a drug company if it increases the price too drastically.

Maryland is now the first state in the nation to implement a law regulating

"States are looking at how to replicate [this law], how to expand on it."

— **ELLEN ALBRITTON, POLICY ANALYST**

these prices. According to this new law, the state of Maryland can investigate cases where a drug has undergone a significant price increase. Under the new statute, if a company raises the price by over 50 percent within a calendar year, then it can be sued.

The attorney general may ask the company to justify the price increase. If the justification is unsatisfactory, then the company may need to pay a fine of up to \$10,000, which is still an unfortunately diminutive amount compared to what

SEE DRUGS, PAGE B9

Elon Musk updates plan to send humans to Mars

By **JONATHAN PATTERSON**
For *The News-Letter*

Elon Musk has dreamed of sending humans to Mars for years, yet travel to the red planet has always been hampered with a litany of obstacles.

However, during a speech at the International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide, Musk announced the latest plan that he hopes can overcome those roadblocks.

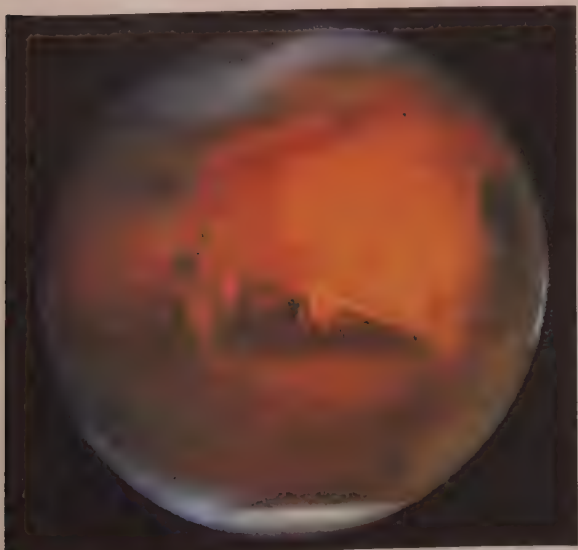
The tech billionaire is convinced that his new plan will not only get people to Mars but will also make it profitable for his company,

SpaceX. The plan Musk announced in late September revolves around the development of a new type of rocket and spaceship.

Called the Interplanetary Transport System, the gigantic reusable rocket SpaceX has designed could potentially allow Musk to watch his aspirations of colonizing Mars turn into reality.

Although Musk's presentation in Australia lacked financial details, he was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying, "Now we think we have a better way to do it."

SEE MUSK, PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Musk recently shared his plan to explore new space travel possibilities.

Happiness may be achieved with six neurotransmitters

By **ANNA CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

In 2004, Hungarian psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi gave a TED talk that introduced the world to "the secret of happiness," which garnered over 4 million views.

This secret is a state of consciousness he calls "flow," in which a person experiences deep contentment and creativity by being so engaged with the activity at hand that they forget everything else around them. Flow, he claims, is what makes life worth living.

Since then, achieving the mental state of flow has become a popular goal, actively pursued by artists, athletes, doctors and company CEOs alike. So it was not surprising when Jamie Wheal's \$5,000, five-day retreat last month called Flow Camp crowded Eden, Utah with enthusiasts.

Wheal challenged flow camp attendees to permanently alter their mindset in order to avoid being startled astray by the massive amounts of information and background interference we absorb daily in our

fast-paced, technology-centered era.

Wheal's newly published book, *Stealing Fire*, details the struggle of many powerful companies and individuals in an effort to reach peak human performance, the "optimal experience."

This book, with its convincing case studies, also argues that solutions for the complicated and multi-layered problems of today's world requires creative, effective solutions that can only be achieved through flow. *Stealing Fire* is probably what brought so many people, near and far, to Utah that week.

Wheal designed Flow Camp to introduce and help cultivate flow. Starting at 8 a.m. each morning, the camp attendees practiced different forms of yoga, from bouncing on



PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Flow" is a content state of consciousness linked to specific neurotransmitters in the brain.

yoga balls to lifting each other's partner into the air in acro-yoga.

Wheal calls this "embodied cognition," melding mind and body together as one through a certain exercise. It is inspired by the scientific finding that physical movement directly affects how a person thinks and feels.

In *Stealing Fire*, Wheal links flow to the emotions associated with six different neurotransmitters: dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, norepinephrine, anandamide and endorphins.

These neurotransmitters are linked to reward centers in the brain as well as the production of emotions such as trust, significance and pleasure. As such, they are associated with many of the same feelings flow is said to produce.

This knowledge points toward the possibility of novel scientific methods to stimulate flow whenever necessary, instead of relying on meditation and other methods. The flow enthusiasts — flowsters, they call themselves — look toward this future with excitement.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bed bug's adaptations make them hard to kill

By **ALLISON CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

There are few unwanted houseguests worse than the bedbug (*Cimex lectularius*).

This is primarily because they are so difficult to detect due to their appearance and behavior. Their flatter bodies allow them to hide in the seams of furniture, along baseboards and even in the heads of screws.

Adult insects, which are barely a quarter-inch long, are sometimes confused with cockroaches, ticks and other common bugs. Whitish-yellow nymphs and pearly, pinhead-sized eggs are nearly invisible to the naked eye.

On top of this, while we often associate bedbugs with the itchy red welts produced when they feed on humans, whose blood is their sole food source,

studies suggest that almost 30 percent of people have no reaction to bedbug bites at all.

Once an infestation is discovered, bedbugs are also notoriously hard to eradicate. In addition to their penchant for obscure hiding places, adult females can survive for up to a year without ingesting any blood.

The insects can survive being vacuumed and exposure to sub-zero temperatures for up to four days. They also swiftly develop resistance mechanisms, from a thicker outer shell, to the production of more enzymes that metabolize insecticides, which they use in combinations to combat new pesticides.

Currently, sustained heat, namely temperatures of at least 120 degrees Fahrenheit, or around 49 degrees Celsius, is recom-

mended to eradicate bedbug infestations.

Desiccants, which kill insects by drying them out, are also a good option, especially since bedbugs have not yet developed a resistance to them. These methods, however, are inconvenient, expensive and at times can prove to be fruitless.

The question then becomes how to avoid bringing the creatures into the home in the first place.

While reports of bedbug sightings in non-traditional locations such as taxis and movie theaters have increased in number, the chance of bringing the insects home from those places is lower.

"It's probably unlikely people will transport them home when numbers are low and it's a 'non-bed' environment," Michael Potter, a professor of entomology at the University of Kentucky, said in an interview with the *Washington Post*.

There are, however, several higher-risk locations to keep in mind. Pest-control professionals reported that the number of nursing homes they encountered with

bedbug infestations had increased by over 50 percent since 2010.

Individuals with elderly relatives in such homes are advised to be vigilant, since older adults will have difficulty seeing the bugs and are often less likely to develop noticeable welts after bites, since their immune systems are less reactive.

"If you have a loved one in a nursing home, you should be inspecting his or her bed regularly, not relying on people there to do it," Dini Miller advised, a Virginia Tech professor of entomology, according to the *Washington Post*.

College dorm rooms are also at risk, due to the large number of people sleeping in the same area, as well as the frequent movement of students between dorm rooms and around common spaces. Institutions, however, are usually very aware of the dangers of a bedbug infestation and have procedures in place if a student suspects an issue.

What is more concerning is the increasing frequency of bedbug sightings in hospital emergency and waiting rooms, brought in by patients or their visitors.

While bedbugs do not transmit any known diseases, patients increase their risk of contracting infections if they scratch bites, breaking their skin.

So while there is no need for general panic when it comes to the bugs, vigilance is always recommended.



Bed bugs are hard to remove as they can withstand sub-zero temperatures and other extremes. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Antibiotic overuse leads to bacterial resistance



Allison Chen
History of Science

"We talk about a pre-antibiotic era and an antibiotic era," Tom Frieden, then-director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said during a press briefing in September 2013. "If we're not careful, we will soon be in a post-antibiotic era."

Within hours of the briefing, media articles about Frieden's remarks and the landmark CDC report that assessed the state of antibiotic resistance in the U.S. began circulating. Frieden's warning of a "post-antibiotic era," proved to be a succinct, provocative way to summarize the possibility of a world in which bacterial infections can no longer be effectively combated.

As much as we would like to consider resistance a modern danger, it did not develop after the so-called "golden age" of antibiotics but rather in tandem with it. One could

"If we're not careful, we will soon be in a post-antibiotic era."

— **TOM FRIEDEN, EX-CDC DIRECTOR**

say that antibiotic resistance is an issue which predates the use of penicillin.

Admittedly that might be a little misleading — but only if you consider penicillin to be synonymous with modern antimicrobials. In reality Alexander Fleming's famous discovery of penicillin was not the first antibacterial on the market: Sulfonamides were.

Derived from a compound used in the dye industry, sulfa drugs enjoyed widespread popularity throughout the second half of the 1930s and into the early 1940s.

In their prime, sulfa drugs cured the likes of Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt's son, but within a few years of their introduction, resistance had become a serious issue.

When penicillin was finally developed for use in humans, its job was partly to cover those diseases against which sulfonamides were no longer effective. Like the sulfa drugs, however, penicillin's honeymoon would be short.

The first research paper on penicillin resistance was published in 1942, only about a year after the antibiotic was first administered to human patients, and the same year it was first mass-manufactured.

This paper described the case of a man named J.B., a patient in a Massachusetts hospital whose *Staphylococcus* bone infection failed to resolve, even after extensive treatment with penicillin over the course of three weeks.

By 1949, less than a decade after the paper appeared, almost 60 percent of *Staphylococcus* strains were penicillin resistant.

Fleming was one of those

who recognized this expanding threat of antibiotic resistance. He closed his 1945 Nobel Lecture with a warning, summarized by a scenario in which a husband fails to complete his course of antibiotics, infects his wife with the resulting drug-resistant bacteria and causes her death.

When Fleming issued his caution, he was concerned with acquired resistance through vertical gene transfer or spontaneous genetic mutations, which improve a bacteria's resistance and can be passed on to offspring.

In 1951, however, there was the first description of horizontal gene transfer. This mechanism involves the transfer of DNA and resistance genes between organisms of the same or different species.

Over the next half-century, resistance developed in alongside antibiotic breakthroughs. Tetracycline was approved by the FDA in 1952 and resistance was reported in the same year. Meticillin was approved in 1960, with

resistance reported the following year.

Multiple-drug resistance also became an issue. By 1960, for instance, almost one-tenth of *Shigella* strains isolated in Japan were

resistant to streptomycin, tetracycline and chloramphenicol.

This does not mean there is anything wrong with antibiotics. They have saved millions of lives, slashed death rates and stretched life expectancies. The very reason why resistance is such a problem is because a world without antibiotics would be an unimaginable one.

Those afflicted with common infections, women in childbirth, children with skin injuries, transplant recipients and others would once again face unprecedented levels of risk.

If we want to find a sustainable way to make infectious diseases obsolete, antibiotics are not the answer and never have been. In fact, researchers have discovered genes in bacteria frozen for centuries or isolated in caves, genes which would grant bacteria resistance to some of our modern antibiotics.

This suggests that resistance genes are not a result of new therapies; the therapies simply made resistance genes more advantageous.

So while measures such as eliminating the prescription of inappropriate antibiotics and discovering new antimicrobials are necessary, even if implemented perfectly, they are only stopgaps.

Instead resources should be focused on preventing infections and developing ways to fight infections that do not increase selective pressure, such as regulating host responses.

Although easier said than done, it is likely that the next breakthrough for fighting bacterial infections will not come in the form of an antimicrobial but as an entirely new concept as revolutionary to us as antibiotics were to the world 100 years ago.

Polluted air quality increases risk of kidney disease

By **SHERRY SIMKOVIC**
Staff Writer

Researchers at the Clinical Epidemiology Center of St. Louis, Missouri recently discovered that air pollution increases the risk for chronic kidney disease (CKD), which can ultimately develop into end stage renal disease (ESRD).

Currently 30 million American adults suffer from CKD. A person with CKD has malfunctioning kidneys, meaning that fluid, electrolytes and other wastes gradually build up in their body because their kidneys cannot properly filter blood at a level needed for day-to-day life.

After 10 to 20 years, the kidneys slowly stop working, which is a sign that a person with CKD now has ESRD. As of 2013, more than 660,000 Americans were being treated for ESRD.

As far as scientists know, diabetes and hypertension (commonly known as high blood pressure) are two of the main leading causes of CKD. Previous studies have also demonstrated the correlation between air pollution and increased risk for cardiovascular disease; however, researchers have not yet started looking into the effects of air pollution on CKD.

This new study published in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* sought to investigate this question.

The research team was led by Benjamin Bowe, a medical statistician, and Ziyad Al-Aly, the study's senior author and an assistant professor of medicine at Washington University in St. Louis.

They worked off the re-

sults of prior experiments which showed that exposing mice to fine exhaust particles from gasoline engines led to oxidative stress, inflammation, DNA damage and changes in the way blood flows in the kidneys.

All of these factors eventually lead to acute renal failure, a phenomenon where the kidneys can no longer filter waste from the blood.

Epidemiologists recruited 2,482,737 test subjects, most of whom were white males. The participants lived in one of four counties: County one had a concentration of fine exhaust particles from 5.0 and 9.1 mg/m³, county two from 9.2 to 11.0 mg/m³, county three from 11.1 to 12.6 mg/m³ and county four from 12.7 to 22.1 mg/m³.

The study revealed that participants living in county four who were exposed to the highest concentration of particles were not only more likely to be African American but also more likely to suffer from hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease and a higher estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR).

The term eGFR is a calculation based on the results of a test that measures the levels of creatinine in the blood. It also factors into account other variables such as age, sex and

race. A high eGFR is indicative of kidney malfunction.

Bowe and Al-Aly subsequently found that the incidence of a high eGFR, CKD and ESRD increased across the counties, with county four having the highest incidence of CKD and county one the lowest.

The team tracked the test subjects' progress over eight and a half years. They found that the incidence of eGFR increased for most of them, especially for those participants who had two high eGFR measurements within 90-day increments of each other.

The team also used data from NASA satellite sensors to determine the levels of concentrations of fine exhaust particles.

"The beauty of using both EPA and NASA data is that the agencies used two distinct techniques for collecting data, yet the results were similar," Al-Aly said during a press release.

Al-Aly went on to describe their results.

"This constellation of

findings suggests that chronic exposure to air pollution is a significant risk factor for the development and progression of kidney disease," he said.

Through these experiments, the researchers found that residents inhabiting regions in the Northeast, Midwest and the South, as well as Southern California, were most at risk for developing CKD. However, high levels of air pollution might not be the sole concern for these residents.

"Even at relatively low levels, there was a relationship between particulate matter concentrations below the EPA thresholds and kidney disease," Al-Aly said.

In the future Bowe and Al-Aly hope to conduct further experiments to assess the global burden of kidney disease caused by breathing in dirty air.

"The higher the levels of air pollution, the worse it is for the kidneys," Al-Aly said. "However, no level is completely safe."



Individuals with severe kidney disease must receive dialysis regularly to filter their blood. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Scientists win Nobel Prize for gravitational waves



Diva Parekh
Part-Time Physicist

The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded on Tuesday, Oct. 8 for the discovery of gravitational waves.

Simply put, gravitational waves are distortions in the fabric of space-time due to a massive cosmological event. The gravitational waves first detected in 2015 were caused by two giant black holes spiraling inward toward each other and then eventually colliding.

When black holes spiral, gravitational waves periodically radiate from their center of motion, leading to a final burst of gravitational waves when they merge.

In the waves detected in 2015, four sets of gravitational waves have been detected from black hole collisions and one from what could be a neutron star collision. Different versions of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) are being built and operated all over the world.

As it turns out, Albert Einstein had predicted gravitational waves as a consequence of general relativity in the 1920s. Nevertheless, after 20-odd years of arguing with himself and with other prominent scientists, he concluded that gravitational waves couldn't exist because they couldn't carry energy.

A few decades later, in 1957, Richard Feynman argued that they could exist, setting the stage for the discovery of energy-carrying gravitational waves almost 60 years later.

Then, in 1968 at the University of Maryland, Joseph Weber created the Weber bar, which evolved over the following years into the complex series of mirrors and perpendicular arms that is LIGO.

I remember when the discovery of gravitational waves was announced. I had physics section, which the students and the TAs collectively decided to skip in order to go downstairs, where some professors had put the broadcast up on a big screen. We watched the mesmerizing animation of the black holes spiraling toward each other.

There was a lot of thanking: of Einstein's genius, of Weber's resourcefulness, of the people who believed in the idea enough to fund the creation of LIGO. But the names that stood out the most were Barry Barish, Kip Thorne and Rainer Weiss, the physicists who would win the Nobel Prize a little over a year later.

The first inspiration for LIGO occurred 45 years ago. Unable to figure out how to explain gravitational waves to his students, Weiss thought up the idea for LIGO.

He constructed an experiment, which he later realized could eventually become a very real way of detecting gravitational waves.

After Weiss interacted with Thorne, Thorne also started to believe in the idea. Thorne proved to be instrumental in convincing Caltech to create the gravitational wave research group led by Ron Drever.

Later in 1994, Barish joined as the LIGO principal investigator, and the depth of his knowledge and practicality helped LIGO turn into something that could detect the tiny space-time fluctuations that gravitational waves are by the time they reach us.

By the time of the 2016 press conference, Drever was already very sick, and he passed away before the Nobel Prize was awarded. It was a struggle, and these four scientists were in it for the long haul.

If they had given up on their idea or if they hadn't followed it through, none of this would have been possible.

But, then again, there was a lot of people involved in the discovery: hundreds, maybe even more. It's possible that the discovery may never have happened if you take any of these people out of the equation.

What if that confused student in Weiss' physics class, whose name we don't know, hadn't spoken up about how they were confused about gravitational waves?

What about the people who helped develop the machinery for LIGO? What about the physicists Felix Pirani and Hermann Bondi? You probably haven't heard their names, but they were instrumental in convincing the world that gravitational waves could in fact carry energy.

What about the people whose names and whose contributions we aren't even aware of that we don't know about?

On the morning the Nobel Prize was announced, one of my physics professors told us he was involved in gravitational-wave research as an undergrad. Looking back on it now, he had no idea what the research would come to.

And that's something I think a lot of us can relate to.

I work in a research lab at Hopkins, and it's doing some really big things. But, sometimes, it's hard for me to fully comprehend the bigger picture. I just have my little project and my little task. I zero in on my little goal, and I achieve it.

Scientific milestones are filled with hundreds, even thousands, of people like that — people who are a small piece of the puzzle but a piece nonetheless, people whose names will never show up in the headlines but were still there, still part of it.

That's one of the things I love about the scientific community today. Everything is a collaboration. From our freshman year problem sets to the meetings in my lab where we conference call NASA and a university in Chile.

You only see three names in the headlines, but just remember that it's only because those headlines couldn't fit the hundreds of people who contributed, who matter.

Musk designs spaceship to send humans to Mars

MUSK, PAGE B7

According to Musk, the new rocket and spaceship combination will cause a "fundamental" change at SpaceX, replacing everything the company is currently launching.

Dubbed the BFR (Big Fucking Rocket) by Musk, it would measure 30 feet in diameter and be able to lift 150 metric tons into low-Earth orbit, making it more powerful than the rocket that put people on the Moon.

The rocket is capable of storing two to three people in each of its 40 cabins, with the ability carry a total of about 100 people per flight.

The rocket is designed so that, after it launches, the booster will separate and return to the launching pad for future use. Meanwhile the spaceship will continue into orbit, refill its tanks of methane and oxygen propellant and begin on the long trek to the red planet.

The spaceship could also travel to the moon, a feature that also appears to interest Musk.

"It's 2017... We should have a lunar base by now," he said to *The New York Times*.

Despite its long-distance capabilities, the BFR could also be used in

shorter distance missions. By replacing SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, the BFR could send satellites into orbit and transport astronauts to the International Space Station.

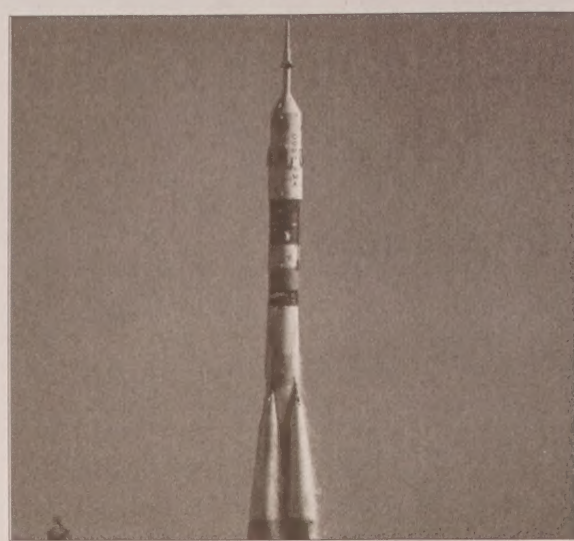
With some modification, the BFR could even be used to collect and dispose of the debris littering space in low-Earth orbit.

Because the BFR is designed to be reusable, the operating cost of the system would be relatively low for space travel.

Robert Zubrin, who serves as the President of the Mars exploration advocacy group Mars Society, is supportive of Musk's newest plan. He spoke to *The New York Times* about how he saw Musk's new approach as more practical.

Another feature the BFR has, which is perhaps its most radical, is the ability to conduct city-to-city travel on Earth. With a top speed of 18,000 miles per hour, the BFR could make long distance flights very short.

With the BFR, no two points on Earth would be more than an hour apart. For example, the nearly 12,000-mile, 15-hour flight from New York City to Shanghai could be reduced to 39 minutes on a BFR



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Musk's rocket is designed to use methane and oxygen to propel around Mars.

rocket.

After his presentation, Musk posted on Instagram and added that the cost of a seat on an in-Earth BFR flight would be about the same as economy-class on a conventional airliner.

Musk has set a timeline for the production of the BFR rocket. SpaceX could launch a cargo mission as soon as 2022, followed by four BFRs heading to Mars in 2024.

Musk's presentation came just hours after it was announced that airplane manufacturer and defense contractor Lockheed Martin released an

update on its plan to travel to Mars in 2028.

Called the Mars Base Camp, the Lockheed Martin craft would circle Mars with six astronauts before returning to Earth after a year.

The updated Lockheed Martin Mission also includes plans a reusable, hydrogen-fueled lander designed to allow four astronauts to live on the Martian surface for two week intervals.

Regardless of who makes it there first or how it is done, it appears that humans are on their way to Mars

New study improves respiratory rate measurements

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

Researchers at University College London (UCL) have recently designed a system to monitor respiratory rates using affordable thermal cameras.

The thermal cameras were attached to mobile devices to constantly track respiratory rates. The researchers analyzed the nostrils' region of interest (ROI) by using thermal imaging to formulate respiratory information.

Thermal cameras are devices that use infrared rays to form images.

The combination of a thermal camera and ambient light, like natural sunlight or indoor lighting, can create a photoplethysmography (PPG) sensor, which senses the rate of blood flow.

The ability to monitor blood flow can also be used to monitor periodic respiratory cycles. Because of this, the researchers were able to use mobile thermal devices to track the respiration of subjects without contact.

Traditional methods of tracking respiratory rates use physical instruments such as chest-belts and oronasal probes. These physical systems can cause issues ranging from mild inconveniences to serious medical conditions.

According to the researchers' paper published by *The Optical Society*, the alternatives to physical systems include PPG and Doppler radar, which are common thermal imaging systems.

Nadia Bianchi-Berthouze, a professor in affective computing and interaction at UCL was the leader of the research team. She spoke about bringing this technology to others.

"By using low-cost ther-

mal cameras, our work is a first step toward bringing thermal imaging into people's everyday lives," Bianchi-Berthouze said in a press release. "This approach can be used in places other sensors might not work or would cause concern."

There were three major challenges that the researcher's faced using the mobile thermal camera technique.

First, incoming data becomes difficult to study in a general environment with different ambient light sources. Second, it can be difficult to quantify thermal patterns while studying environments with varying temperatures.

Additionally, nostril movement caused by breathing or body motion (e.g., laughing) makes it difficult to extract physiological information.

Researchers employed several solutions to confront those challenges: optimal quantization, thermal gradient flow and thermal voxel.

All of these methods improve the respiratory information at the ROI and the ability to track respiratory rate.

Researchers also developed a tracking algorithm that may be implemented outside the nostril ROI. Large thermal ranges and environmental noise degrade the performance of the designed tracking system.

Extreme cases of environmental change, such as leaving a heated room in the winter or entering a swimming pool, influence the temperature distribution.

Youngjun Cho, an author of the paper, spoke to *ScienceDaily* about how researchers previously had to use large expensive imaging systems to measure breathing. Cho explained that while using mobile devices for this research was more convenient, there

were still issues to be addressed.

"We wanted to use the new portable systems to do the same thing by creating a smart-phone based respiratory tracking method that could be used in almost any environment or activity," Cho said. "However, we found that in real-world situations this type of mobile thermal imaging was affected by changes in air temperature and body movement."

Nevertheless the researchers concluded in their paper that their nostril tracking technique works better than state of the art algorithms in high thermal range environments. The technique also generally achieved high accuracy in tracking respiratory rates.

Maryland leads the way in Pharma regulation laws

DRUGS, PAGE B7

the large pharma companies are worth.

This action is a step forward for many citizens around the country who rely on antibiotics and specialty treatment drugs that they cannot afford.

Now these price increases may be prevented in Maryland.

This law went into effect Oct. 1, and may be one of many laws that will eventually call for national action to penalize companies with nonessential price increases.

Other states, such as Massachusetts, Tennessee, Montana and Rhode Island, have taken similar measures to discourage price increases.

California appears to also be close to a new law, as there is currently a bill

that requires pharmaceutical companies to notify the government whenever they make a price increase of over 16 percent within two years.

In order to allow increases to occur, companies are also required to justify these increases.

The Maryland law has set the precedent in this arena. In a statement to *The Washington Post*, Ellen Albritton, a senior policy analyst at Families USA, commented on the innovative approach.

"States are looking at how to replicate [this law] and how to expand on it," Albritton said.

Soon these small bills may answer the national call of affordable health care and lower the cost of so many desperately needed drugs.

LaMastra and Fabian highlight swim meet

SWIM, FROM B12

is definitely important,” Shapiro said.

After reflecting on the team’s first meet of the season, Shapiro is hopeful about the team’s ability to achieve their end-of-season goal.

“Our big goal for the end of the season is to have a strong team at Nationals and finish in the top five. The team swam really well for so early in the season,” Shapiro said. “We’re much faster than we were this time last year and have been training hard. Hopefully this foreshadows a really successful rest of the season.”

Meanwhile, for the men, the Jays started the day with third and fifth-place finishes in the 200 Medley Relay. Afterwards were the individual events, where Bostrom and freshman Christopher Arena took third and fourth in the 1000 Free, respectively.

Fabian took the individual title in the 200 Free, competing in his very first meet for the Jays. He outswam his competition by more than two seconds. Junior Michael Wohl, who also raced in the 200 Free, finished in fifth.

Other standout moments included junior Emile Kuyil’s second-place finish in the 100 Breast; senior Kyle Otazu’s second-place finish in the 200 Fly; and freshman Marcelo Lauzurique’s second place finish in the 200 Breast.

Fabian came out again to compete in the 100 Free, where he placed second with a time of 46.63. Senior Mark Wilson and junior Alex Carson followed, taking fifth and sixth, respectively.

Then, in the 500 Free, Otazu earned his second second-place finish on the day, clocking in at 4:46.03. In the 100 Fly, Wilson took second, touching the wall in 51.27.

To finish up the day, Hopkins took second and fifth-place finishes in the 400 Free Relay. Unfortunately, these finishes were not enough to pull the Blue Jays ahead in the team score, as William & Mary claimed a 194-68 victory over Hopkins.

“This fall we’re going to be racing a bunch of really good D-I programs like Navy, Loyola and Towson, as well as NYU for D-III,” Bostrom said. “With that experience, I think we’re going to set ourselves up for a fantastic championship meet at Princeton in December.”

Despite the loss, the Jays have high hopes for the improvement that is to come throughout the season.

“As a team, we’re excited to try and qualify as many as we can for NCAAAs, and I think our team is looking very competitive this year,” Bostrom said.

Both the women’s and men’s team will travel to Annapolis, Md. to face off against Navy and Towson in their next meet on Friday, Oct. 20.

Jays host Israel’s national lacrosse team at Homewood Field

By DAVID GLASS
For The News-Letter

This past weekend, the Hopkins men’s lacrosse team hosted the Israel men’s national lacrosse team in their first scrimmage of the fall. Hopkins, who finished 13th in last year’s rankings, took the game 12-6.

“It was very exciting for us to get out and play another team for the first time this year,” senior midfielder Hunter Moreland said. “Our University is very diverse, so it is great to see some of that diversity coming into the lacrosse world.”

The Blue Jays struck first, as senior attacker Shack Stanwick ripped a shot to the back of the net at the 13:46 mark in the first quarter. The goal came off of an assist from junior attacker Kyle Marr.

Less than three minutes later, Israel came back with a goal of their own to tie the game at 1-1. The game started off evenly matched, as the score would hold at one through the end of the first quarter. The Jays, however, would soon break open the scoring with eight of the next nine goals.

The first of the Blue Jays’ goals started at the

11:03 mark of the second quarter, when Marr fed senior midfielder Patrick Fraser for the Blue Jays’ second goal of the day, giving them a 2-1 lead.

Hopkins then extended their lead with two unassisted goals from sophomore attacker Cole Williams and another from Stanwick.

Israel added another goal, cutting the Blue Jays’ lead to 5-2 going into halftime.

Moreland was excited about how well the underclassmen performed on the field.

“There was a lot of good that came out of the scrimmage from our younger players,” Moreland said. “I believe this team has the ability to accomplish our goals and get to where we need to be,” he added.

Hopkins opened up the second half emphatically with four consecutive goals to put them up 9-2. Two of the goals came from senior midfielder Brinton Valis.

The Jays held at least a six-goal lead the rest of the way. They would end up adding three more insurance goals from three different players: sophomore attacker Forry Smith, freshman attacker Luke Shilling and senior midfielder Thomas Guida. With 12

freshmen still in the process of adapting to collegiate play and Head Coach Dave Pietramala’s system, Moreland described some of the extra efforts put forth by the more experienced members of the team.

“At any school, adapting to the intense level of play in division one is difficult coming from high school,” Moreland said. “I think we as upperclassmen have done a good job of going out of our way to connect with the incoming freshmen.”

Despite one goal late in the third quarter and three goals in the fourth for Israel, Hopkins proved to be too dominant for the Israel team, winning by a score of 12-6.

For Israel, who is in the middle of their October tour across the Northeast, the loss comes just one week after their victory against Boston University. The win was their first against a NCAA



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The men’s lacrosse team played the Israeli national team while they were on a Northeast tour.

lacrosse program in the team’s history.

“It is great to see the sport expanding into different areas of the world, since lacrosse is dominated by the U.S. and Canada,” Moreland said. “Additionally, it was great to play against one of my former teammates and mentors, Eric Schneider.”

Schneider, who graduated in 2014, was the Jays’ first goalie to hold captain status since 2003.

Moreland also spoke about the expectations for the upcoming spring season, both for himself and the team.

“Personally, a goal for me is to stay healthy all year long. I am looking to enjoy every moment we have as a team in my final

year,” Moreland added.

He also commented on what he would like to see from the team later this spring.

“For the team, our ultimate goal is always a national championship. Our team wants to get back to the success we had my freshman year, winning the Big Ten Championship and making it all the way to the Final Four.”

The Jays’ next fall action will be an event supporting the HEADstrong Foundation on Sunday, Oct. 15. Hopkins will host Army, the University at Albany and the University of Richmond at the Boys’ Latin School of Maryland in Baltimore, Md., starting at 12 p.m.

MLB playoff predictions forsee a wild ride to the World Series



Greg Melick
Sportpinion

We have arrived at another year of the Major League Baseball playoffs, and many of the same teams from last year have returned to compete for a chance at the World Series.

Out of the eight teams that made it to the division series this year, five of them took part in the playoffs last year, including the American League and National League champions, the Cleveland Indians and Chicago Cubs, respectively.

So far this year, the Houston Astros, Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees have advanced to the Championship Series of their respective leagues. While the Dodgers and Astros won decisively, the Yankees shocked much of the baseball world by beating the hottest team in baseball heading into the playoffs.

In addition to the Indians’ hot streak coming into the playoffs, the Yankees also had to overcome a 2-0 deficit to make it to the Championship Series. To top it all off, the Yankees had a heart-breaking loss in game two, in which they led 8-3 before blowing their lead.

With so many powerhouse teams in the playoffs, there are a lot of fireworks still to go off. That being said, here are my predictions for the remainder of the playoffs.

National League: The National League Champi-

onship Series will pit the Dodgers against either the Cubs or the Washington Nationals. No matter the matchup, it will be a star-studded affair that will either be a rematch of last year’s National League Division Series or the Championship Series.

The Dodgers have had one of the best streaks in MLB history this season from June to August. At 43-7, the Dodgers marked the best record over a 50-game stretch since the 1912 New York Giants.

The team was on pace to win 115 games on the season, but then as quickly as they got red hot, they crashed back down to icy cold, losing 16 of 17 games from the end of August into the beginning of September. They still ended the regular season with the best record in baseball, but they did not have the historic season they expected.

Similarly, the Cubs played two very different ways this year. In the first half of the season, they battled a World Series hangover after the team won its first World Series in 108 years last season. They had a 43-45 record in the first half. It was a deep hole to dig out of if they wanted to even have a chance to defend their title.

But the Cubs put the effort in and then came, as they caught fire in the second half of the 2017 season, playing to a 49-25 record and securing first place in the National League Central division for the second straight year.

The last team still alive in the National League playoffs is the Washington Nationals, who were considered by many to be the preseason favorite to win the National League. While they have not been as dominant as many teams expected them to be, it may not end up impacting

their playoff hopes.

In one of the biggest moves of the offseason, the Nationals traded for Adam Eaton of the Chicago White Sox, a star outfielder to complete an already star-studded team.

The addition seemed to push the Nationals over the edge, as there was no weak spot to be found in a lineup with arguably the best pitcher in all of baseball (Max Scherzer) and arguably the best hitter as well (Bryce Harper).

Things did not exactly go according to plan, however, as they were hit hard by the injury bug. Adam Eaton tore his ACL early in the year and has been out the entire season since. Likewise, both Bryce Harper and Trea Turner missed significant time due to injuries. Despite all the injuries, the Nationals still won the NL East decisively and have most of their offensive pieces back in time for the playoffs.

With the strengths and weaknesses of all these teams taken into consideration, there are bound to be some great games in the National League Championship Series. When all is said and done, however, I cannot see any team triumphing over the Dodgers’ star power.

The Dodgers lineup is loaded from top to bottom, with young stars Corey Seager and Cody Bellinger anchoring the middle and energetic players like Yasiel Puig anchoring the bottom of the lineup. Even with a lineup this star studded, the Dodgers’ strongest asset is their pitching. I would never bet against Clayton Kershaw, and in the play-

offs, a future Hall-of-Famer like him makes even more of an impact.

The difference between this Dodgers team and ones of years past are the pitchers backing up Kershaw. They have three other pitchers who have had ace-type seasons this year in Rich Hill, Yu Darvish and Alex Wood. Even if one falters, another can come in and continue the game, because in the playoffs, teams usually only use three starting pitchers.

No other team can boast the talent throughout the entire roster that the Dodgers can, and that is why they will be your National League Champions.

American League: The Houston Astros punched their tickets to the American League Championship Series, beating the Boston Red Sox in four games in the Division Series. They are serious contenders now that they have Justin Verlander.

No one can question the Astros’ prolific lineup. With a list of powerful hitters, opposing pitchers will find it hard to rest. Throw José Altuve into the mix, who is most likely going to win the AL MVP award, and you have one of the top offenses in the league.

Pitching has always been the Astros’ Achilles Heel, as they seem to always skate by with mediocre pitchers who outperform what is expected of them in order to let the offense do all the work. With the addition of Justin Verlander, however, they have a bona fide ace who could potentially lead them to the World Series for the first time since 2005.

The New York Yankees are not the Yankees of old. They are loaded with established, overpaid power-hitters. They also have rookie sensation Aaron Judge, as well as numerous other young studs, like Gary Sánchez and Greg Bird.

The team only has two players from the 2009 World Series remaining on the roster: CC Sabathia and Brett Gardner. These Baby Bombers are also backed up by solid starting pitching and an outstanding bullpen that can keep them in any game and always give them a chance to hit their way out of any hole.

The matchup between the Astros and the Yankees will be full of fireworks from the bats, especially when you consider the mediocre pitching for both teams. The matchup is fitting in a year that broke the record for the most home runs in a season.

Because both teams can hit from the top of their lineup to the bottom, the matchup will come down to pitching. While Luis Severino has thrown a Cy Young caliber season, he does not have the same playoff experience that Justin Verlander has.

The Yankees may have a better back end of the rotation, but many of these series boil down to the aces because of how extensively they’re used in playoff series. For that reason, the Astros will win their first ever American League Championship.

If the Dodgers and Astros do meet in the World Series, one long World Series drought will be ended. The Astros have never won a World Series in the 55-year history of the franchise, while the Dodgers have not even made it to the World Series since their last win in 1988.

Playoff baseball is back in full swing, so get ready for a wild ride.

No other team can boast the talent throughout the entire roster that the Dodgers can.

SPORTS

M. Soccer's undefeated season comes to an end



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The men's soccer team had won their first 11 games until Saturday's loss.

By **EMILIE HOFFER**
Sports Editor

For the first time this season, the men's soccer team faced a very unfamiliar outcome as they lost against Messiah College.

Last Thursday, the formerly ninth-ranked Blue Jays were handed their first loss of the season by the formerly fifth-ranked Messiah College Falcons in the final minutes of the game.

Even though the Jays outshot the Falcons 10-9, they were unable to capitalize.

"We had our chances, and they had theirs," senior defender Jonah Muniz said. "We just couldn't score."

The loss ended a 15-game winning streak for the Blue Jays, who were up against their first top-10 team since September 2010.

After their disappointing loss, the Blue Jays were back on the field just two days later to take on their Centennial Conference rival: the Swarthmore College Garnet.

This would be a decisive game for the Jays, coming back shortly after their first loss of the regular season.

Hopkins started the match on the attack, forcing the Garnet's goalie to make four first-half saves. Later, in the 65th minute of play, the Jays had an exciting three-shot streak within 30 seconds but again were not able to capitalize.

First, senior midfielder Drew Collins ripped a shot to the far post, followed by headers from freshman defender Chase Burciaga, both of which the Garnet's goalie Oliver Steinglass defended. The ball then went right from the goalkeeper's hands to sophomore forward Achim Younker, who headed the ball just over the crossbar.

With neither team able to score during regulation, the match went into overtime. However, that proved to be just as unexciting, as both teams went scoreless through the second overtime, ending the game in a draw.

Graduate student goalie Bryan See, who leads the Centennial Conference with eight shutouts on the season, explained that at this point in the season most of their opponents know the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"We need to be able to adapt more to the different tactics our opponents

use to defend us, and we certainly need to be more clinical and dynamic in our style of play," See said.

Though the Jays outshot Swarthmore by a large 22-11 margin and edged them out in corner kicks 10-2, they were unable to convert their advantage into a win. This is the first time in 59 straight games that the Jays have been shut out in back-to-back matches.

After playing four games in just seven days, recovery is going to be key for this team in the coming days.

While the Jays might take a break from conditioning, they will still be looking for ways to improve their performance on the field.

"We will be doing a lot of post-game analysis and work on various tactical and combination plays," See explained. "We want to be more versatile as a team."

Although the match ended in a draw, the Blue Jays got their tenth shutout of the season and See's 22nd career shutout. See is tied for fifth most shutouts by a goalkeeper in school history.

The Blue Jays still sit atop the Centennial Conference with a 4-0-1 record, followed by the Gettysburg Bullets, who hold a 4-1-0 record, their sole loss coming from the Jays. According to See, Hopkins has ambitious goals for this season, and those goals have not changed in the wake of this week's events.

"To finish first in the regular season, host the Conference Tournament and clinch the title in front of our fans on Homewood Field has been at the back of our minds since day one of preseason, and nothing has changed," See said.

With three games left in the Jays' regular season, the Conference is anything but decided. All five of the top teams in the Conference have one or zero losses, and two of the team's final three games are against teams in that top five.

With this much on the line, it is essential that Hopkins shakes off the loss and the tie and bounces back into their winning ways next week.

The Jays get a week-long break from their busy schedule and do not see competitive play until Oct. 14, when they travel to Lancaster, Pa. for another Centennial Conference matchup, this time against the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats.

By **COURTNEY COLWELL**
For *The News-Letter*

This weekend, the Hopkins men's water polo team traveled to California for the Gary Troyer Tournament. Though the team struggled in its first match versus the University of Redlands, the rest of the weekend was an undeniable triumph.

Winning their next three matches against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, Whittier College and University of La Verne, the Jays were able to boost their record to 11-8, delivering the team a much needed confidence boost.

But this weekend was not just a success of the games they won: The Jays also broke a few records in the process. Most notably, Head Coach Ted Bresnahan acquired his 400th career win, solidifying his place in program history.

It's also worth noting that as he joins baseball Head Coach Robert Babb as one of two active Hopkins coaches with over 400 wins.

It was a victorious weekend for senior captain goalie John Wilson as well. In the Jays' third match of the weekend versus Whittier, Wilson broke some records of his own.

With 24 saves on the game, Wilson not only broke his career-best record but also tied the program's record. For this accomplishment, Wilson has been named this week's Athlete of the Week.

Wilson's play at Hopkins thus far has been nothing short of dominant. Coming into his final season as

a two-time All-American, a three-time Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference (MAWPC) Defensive Player of the Week and with over 700 saves under his belt, Wilson had already proved himself to be an integral part of the Hopkins team.

If possible, his performance this year has been even more impressive. Wilson began the year by earning his fourth MAWPC Defensive Player of the Week title after an astounding 39 saves at the Navy Labor Day Open.

Most importantly, two weekends ago in the Jays' match against George Washington, Wilson surpassed the program's career save record, overtaking former record-holder Jeremy Selbst, who had 664 career saves.

Since reaching this milestone, however, Wilson has done anything but slow down and shows no signs of stopping.

His play this past weekend has been a testament to that: Finishing the weekend with a total of 54 saves over just four games, Wilson is undoubtedly deserving of this week's title.

Following one of his career-best performances, Wilson sat down with *The News-Letter* to discuss what these milestones have meant to him and how the team felt about their week-

end in California.

The News-Letter: Coming off a string of losses from early October, what were some of the team's goals going into this weekend?

John Wilson: Traveling out to California and playing in full-sized pools again definitely revitalized the team, and we were mostly focused on tightening up our defense.

N-L: Is it difficult for the team to maintain their stamina over all four games?

JW: Playing multiple games a day is taxing, but it's necessary to fit all of our games into our schedule. I'm especially proud of our field

players for swimming hard through all four games, and it served as good preparation for the six games we have this upcoming weekend in Boston.

N-L: How did it feel to tie the program record for saves in a game (and subsequently earn your career-best performance) in the match versus Whittier?

JW: I had no idea until our coach told me after the game, but I think it was a great testament to the defense shot-blocking well and forcing the right shots.

N-L: Going into the last game of the weekend, the

team had the chance to deliver Head Coach Ted Bresnahan his 400th career win. Did this add any pressure for you?

JW: There was a little pressure, especially as it was our last game of a tough weekend. We couldn't have asked for better timing though, and we were proud to help be a part of Ted's legacy.

N-L: This season has been one of major milestones for you. Now that you have tied the program record for saves in a game and beaten the program's record for all time saves, what goals do you have left for the remainder of the season?

JW: My fellow seniors and I only have a month and a half left in our water polo careers, so we're just trying to make the most of it. We're hoping to win the D-III Eastern Championship this weekend and finish the season strong.

Catch Wilson and the Jays in action this weekend when they travel to Cambridge, Mass. for the Harvard Invitational and the Division-III Eastern Championship.



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Water Polo goalie John Wilson.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JOHN WILSON — WATER POLO

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: John Wilson
Year: Senior
Sport: Water Polo
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Hillsborough, Calif.
High School: Menlo School

Volleyball keeps streak going with pair of victories

By **BRANDON WOLFE**
For *The News-Letter*

The Hopkins women's volleyball team continued their hot streak by winning their 14th and 15th straight matches this weekend against the Washington & Lee University Generals (W&L) and the Muhlenberg College Mules, both in three straight sets.

According to sophomore outside hitter Louisa Kishon, this was an important weekend for the team.

"We got closer to where we want to be in terms of playing together like a team and playing our game how we want to play, no matter who the opponent is," Kishon said.

The Jays got into the groove right away against the Generals on Friday, going on a quick 5-1 run and forcing W&L to call an early timeout to regroup. Hopkins would continue their strong start and take the set to 14-7 before the Generals began to rally back.

With four straight points to bring the deficit to three, the Generals started to make it a competitive game, bringing the score to a close 14-11 battle. The Generals were not going to let the Jays have the easy win; they continued rallying against the Blue Jays, pushing the set to 19-17, just barely in the Jays' favor.

However, the Blue Jays had one final push left to give them an edge over the Generals. Kishon gave the Jays four straight points off of her serves and, after a point for the Generals,

freshman opposite Morgan Wu and freshman setter Natalie Aston would knock down a Generals hit to win the Jays the first set at 25-19.

Washington & Lee would start the second set off with four consecutive points to notch an early lead at 5-3 before Hopkins answered with two points of their own to tie the set at five.

However, the Generals did not go down without a fight, going point for point with the Jays, eventually taking a 14-12 lead and forcing Head Coach Tim Cole to call a Hopkins timeout.

After the break, the Jays battled back to eventually take the lead at 21-20. With the wind in their sails, the Jays took complete control and carried their momentum to the end of the set, winning 25-23.

The third set was even for much of the beginning before Hopkins would rally for four straight points to take a sizable 13-8 lead against Washington & Lee.

From there, the Jays never looked back and continued to dominate play. Winning the third set 25-16, they beat the Generals in a convincing fashion.

Freshman outside hitter Simone Bliss led the charge for the Jays with 11 kills, with Kishon and senior setter Kristi Rhead contributing seven kills each. Rhead also accounted for 13 assists with Aston recording 16.

The next day, the Jays faced the only other undefeated Centennial Conference team, the Muhlenberg College Mules. The Saturday

matchup would be a decisive game for both teams, as each was carrying a win streak of more than 12 games.

The Jays got off to a quick start against the Mules, taking a 10-5 lead and forcing Muhlenberg to call a timeout.

Once the set continued, the Blue Jays simply continued to dominate their competition, cruising to a 25-13 victory.

Much like the first set, the Jays started off the second with a fast start that saw them take a 4-0 lead off of the serve of senior outside hitter Elizabeth Wuerstle. Hopkins would again capitalize on their early lead in a 25-18 second set win.

In the third set, Wuerstle once again took control from the service line with seven straight points, putting the Jays up a quick 7-1 to start. Wuerstle's strong performance continued throughout the third set, as her back-to-back aces late in the set would tie the team ace record set earlier in the season by Wu — 13 aces in a three-set match — and pushed the Jays to a 25-10 victory.

Kishon led the attack with nine kills, followed by Wuerstle's seven.

Wuerstle's strong performance against the Mules added to

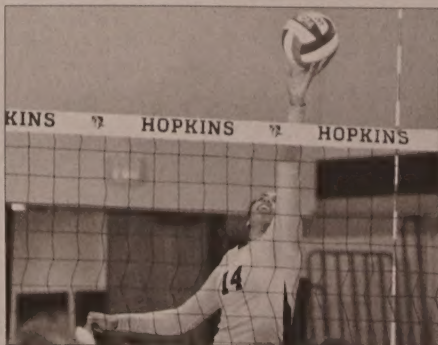
her impressive resume this season. In the past three matches, Wuerstle racked up 20 aces for the Blue Jays from the service line and leads the Conference with 69 total aces this season. Not to mention, her average of 1.19 aces per set leads NCAA D-III volleyball.

This past Monday, Wuerstle was named the Centennial Conference Volleyball Player of the Week, as she helped push the Jays' winning streak to 15 matches.

"This weekend was an important weekend for our team," Rhead said. "Morgan Wu had an especially strong weekend; she and our other freshmen really step it up every day."

Yesterday, the Jays' extended their win streak to 16, tying the team record with their win against McDaniel College. Likewise, their win streak in Conference games was pushed to 16, two short of the team record of 18.

Hopkins is scheduled to take on the Juniata College Eagles this Friday evening at 7 p.m. in Goldfarb Gym.



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The Jays have won 16 straight games since September 2.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Freshman forward Riley O'Toole of the Hopkins women's soccer team was named Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week after her combined three-goal performance against Dickinson College and Muhlenberg College last week.

CALENDAR

Friday
Volleyball vs. Juniata: 7 p.m.
Water Polo @ Harvard: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Field Hockey vs. Swarthmore: 1 p.m.
M. Soccer @ F&M: 5 p.m.

U.S. men's soccer fails when it matters most



Greg Melick
Sportpinion

For the first time since 1986, the United States men's national soccer team will not be participating in the World Cup. A loss on Tuesday night to a last-place Trinidad and Tobago team along with wins by Panama and Honduras resulted in the United States placing fifth in their World Cup qualification group.

The qualification tournament, known as the Hexagonal, started out as poorly as possible for the United States. The top four teams in the group would qualify for at least a playoff spot. All the United States had to do was tie, and they would be guaranteed at least a chance against Australia for the final qualifying position.

They lost their first game of the tournament to Mexico by a score of 2-1, and then in their second game they were beaten handily by Costa Rica with a final score of 4-0. The United States came out with no energy and were simply embarrassed by Costa Rica.

After the match against Costa Rica, the United States fired head coach Jürgen Klinsmann and hired former head coach Bruce Arena to try and revitalize the U.S. team, something he has done once before. Arena first coached the National Team in 1998 and was the most successful coach in the team's history.

While Arena was coach, the team was ranked as high as fourth in the world, but he was fired after a lackluster performance in the 2006 World Cup. The hope was that he could work the same magic to turn the team around this time as well.

Initially, the change seemed to pay off, as the United States turned their -5 goal differential into a +1 differential in just one game with a 6-0 win over Honduras.

After a tie against Panama and a 2-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago, the team was all set up to cruise to an easy World Cup qualification. They followed those games up with a tie against Mexico, in a hostile road environment.

At that point there was a clear path for the United States to lock up their World Cup qualification,

but they lost their footing along the way.

The team proceeded to lose their next game to Costa Rica 2-0, and then they tied against Honduras, which pushed them into a very difficult spot. They had to win both of their two remaining games, against Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, in order to qualify.

They took care of the first step, beating Panama 4-0, but faltered in their last qualification game against Trinidad and Tobago. Despite how much was riding on this game, the United States came out flat.

They surrendered a goal just 17 minutes in. They gave up another just 20 minutes later to dig themselves into a deep hole that they could not escape from, despite many second half opportunities.

Some big changes need to be made to the United States National team.

While the U.S. were losing, Panama secured a win against Costa Rica with an 88th minute goal.

A 3-2 Honduras win over Mexico meant the United States would not get a chance to represent their country in the World Cup.

There were some good moments for the United States: Midfielder Christian Pulisic led all of the qualifying tournament players with five goals. Even with his age, Clint Dempsey performed well, scoring four goals.

Even with a couple stand-out performances, the loss to Trinidad and Tobago was the cherry on top of an extremely embarrassing performance by the team.

There were many more bad performances than good from the U.S. team, and because of the lackluster showing, you will not be able to cheer on the United States in the 2018 World Cup. The team will have to wait until the 2020 Olympics for redemption.

Some big changes need to be made to the United States National team in light of this humiliating lapse. Many people want to blame the leadership for not preparing the players, but it goes deeper than that.

Though Klinsmann and Arena can definitely be blamed, at the end of the day it boils down to the players having to go out there and play with passion. Hopefully when the United States players watch the World Cup from home, it will keep them from taking their bid to the World Cup for granted.

This should also signal that the U.S. should move towards the future with their roster. While having people like Dempsey and Tim Howard on the team provides a veteran presence for the young players on the team, it obviously is not working. It's time to bring in young talent to reenergize a flat-footed roster.

M. Lacrosse defeats Israeli national team



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The Hopkins men's lacrosse team hosted Israel's national men's lacrosse team under the lights of Homewood Field this past Saturday. The Jays, who finished 13th last season, took the victory in their first game of the fall season. Completing a tour across the Northeast region of the United States throughout October, the Israeli team gave the Blue Jays tough competition, but Hopkins did not let their opponents' spirits phase them. Hopkins finished the game with a 12-6 win.

B10

Volleyball extends win streak

After defeating Washington & Lee and Muhlenberg, Hopkins volleyball remains undefeated in Conference play. The Jays have extended their win streak to 16-straight games.

PAGE B11

Athlete of the Week: John Wilson

Senior goalie and two-time All-American John Wilson tallied 54 saves over the span of four games last weekend. Wilson now holds the record for most career saves.

PAGE B11

MLB Playoffs kick into full gear

The Major League Baseball Playoffs began last week and there are many storylines already developing. As the playoffs continue, there will be some key matchups to look out for.

PAGE B10

Swim opens the season with loss to William & Mary

By ESTHER HONG
Sports Editor

Last Saturday, the Hopkins women's and men's swim teams traveled to the College of William & Mary (W&M) for their first meet of the season. Although both teams came out with a loss, there were still several impressive performances recorded on both sides.

For the women, senior Gwynnie LaMastra led the Jays with her breaststroke sweep. Meanwhile on the men's side, sophomore transfer Brandon Fabian made his Hopkins debut with an individual win in the 200 Free.

"Both the women and men had some really strong season-opening swims," Junior Erik Bostrom said. "Even though we lost, W&M is a great D-I program, and I think coming in as underdogs we were able to prove ourselves as a worthy competitor."

The women began their season with second and fourth-place finishes in the 200 Medley Relay.

Junior Natalia Rincon, LaMastra, senior Anna Wisniewski and freshman Mikayla Bisignani took second, while the all-sophomore team of Michelle Wang, Sonia Lin, Lauren Harris and Alison Shapiro claimed fourth.

Shapiro appreciated the competitive spirit Wil-

liam & Mary brought on Saturday. Despite falling short in a few races, Shapiro thought the day was a great experience, especially since they have been back training as a team for only a month.

"We've been training really hard, and so we just wanted to see where we are so early in the season," Shapiro said. "We wanted to go in, race and hopefully be faster than we were at this point last year."

Freshmen Emma McElrath and Amy Pearson kicked off the individual events with third and fourth-place finishes, respectively in the 1000 Free.

Senior Courtney Cowan took the individual title in the 200 Free. Clocking in at 1:52.29, Cowan smoked her opponents by more than three seconds and posted an NCAA provisional time.

Wang followed Cowan with a third-place finish. The Jays also finished well in the 100 Back, with Wisniewski and freshman Carmela Irato taking second and sixth, respectively.

LaMastra won her first breaststroke event of the day: the individual 100. She outswam William & Mary's freshman Megan Bull by a convincing 1.34 seconds.

Senior Sara Wujciak also raced in the 100 Breast, finishing in fourth, just miss-



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Senior Gwynnie LaMastra swept both breaststroke events at William & Mary.

ing third by one-hundredth of a second.

After her teammates raced in the 200 Fly, 50 Free, 100 Free and 200 Back, LaMastra came out again to complete her sweep with a victory in the individual 200 Breast.

Finishing in 2:21.60, she earned an NCAA provisional time and beat second-place finisher Shannon Harrington from William & Mary by more than three seconds.

In addition to her noteworthy performance this past weekend, LaMastra was recently named College Swimming National Division-III Women's Swimmer of the Week.

Senior Kaitlin Jones ended the individual

events on a high note for the Jays, winning the 500 Free in 5:02.39.

The Blue Jays wrapped up the day with second and fifth-place finishes in the 400 Free Relay.

The team of Wisniewski, Shapiro, Cowan and Pearson finished in second with a time of 3:32.58. Rincon, sophomore Bailey Robertson, junior Emily Cheng and Bisignani took fifth with a time of 3:40.30.

"William & Mary is a really great D-I program, and though we lost, the meet was much closer than expected. Going forward, continuing to be competitive while racing D-I programs like William & Mary

SEE SWIM, B10